



DIANA: TESTAMENT IN HER OWN WORDS: PART 2

'The book brought the one thing Diana had dreamed of - hope; she was liberated at last'

PAGES 14,15



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TO BE WON TODAY

PAGE 30



McManaman rejoins World Cup squad

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Old Left preferred by party activists

Mandelson learns 'touch of humility'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR activists embarrassed Tony Blair yesterday by rejecting his close adviser and friend Peter Mandelson as a member of the party's ruling body.

The vote ended the Prime Minister's hopes of a trouble-free party conference and overshadowed preparations for his address today. But Mr Blair, his advisers and Mr Mandelson himself swiftly countered suggestions that the defeat of one of the architects of new Labour was a vote against modernisation - which will be the central theme of today's speech.

They cited the comfortable vote yesterday for the latest package of party reforms as evidence of support for Mr Blair's approach.

But there was no attempt to disguise the disappointment at the defeat of the Minister of Portfolio, who came eighth in a ballot for the seven MP places on the national executive. Even worse for the leadership was the fact that the place Mr Mandelson was seeking went to his leftwing critic Ken Livingstone.

Mr Mandelson - so long in the shadows as adviser first to Neil Kinnock and then to Mr Blair - had stood for election in an attempt to legitimise the substantial power he wields through his closeness to Mr Blair. He hoped, and most of the leadership felt, that activists would reward him for his work as Labour's election campaign chief.

But he has always been a controversial figure: and it is clear that an uncomfortable August when he and John Prescott were said to be "minding the shop" in Mr Blair's absence on holiday did him no good at all.

Mr Mandelson put a brave face on his setback last night, pointing out that it was his first attempt and that even Mr Kinnock had taken three goes to get on. He said: "Even if I had known the result in advance I would still have stood because I wanted to show I was moving from being a shadowy backroom fixer to an ordinary politician."

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politician taking the risk of being defeated.

"A touch of humility is good for everyone, particularly a politician and particularly me. I have made enemies, possibly unnecessarily and I regret that. I have made mistakes and I will learn from them. But it was a solid and respectable vote."

Cabinet members said privately last night that Mr Mandelson's decision to stand had been a miscalculation. "He thought - we thought - that he would get on. But Peter is the personification of the central control that the activists do not like and they would not have him. Had he known that he would have damaged Tony on the eve of his speech he would not have done it."

A source close to Mr Blair said: "Two years ago, if you had even suggested Peter would get near the national executive, you would have been laughed out of court." But the source added that Mr Mandelson was a talented and important figure who would continue to play an important part in the development of new Labour. He is still regarded as likely to earn a place in the Cabinet.

The Left, however, was

delighted by the result and a cheer went up in the conference hall in Brighton when the votes were announced. Both Diane Abbott and Dennis Skinner, the two other leftwing MPs on the executive, increased their votes and Mr Skinner said the outcome was a clear indication that the socialist wing of the party would not be silenced.

Ms Abbott was also gleeful, saying: "This is a tremendous blow to Peter Mandelson. A great operator, a great fixer, could not get himself elected and fixed on to the national executive." She said the result was "significant politically", proving that ordinary party members "did not buy Mandelson's politics".

Mr Livingstone also insisted that there was a political message: "It is not personal. It is not that people don't like Mr Mandelson. I like him. He is very charming and witty company to be in. This was a political choice. Party members have sent a warning that they are not just a rubber stamp and that they are there to have a view on things."

Mr Livingstone said that Mr Blair was "no fool" and would recognise the prod from the rank-and-file to say "you haven't got a blank cheque". But he also accepted that this would be something of a "coronation conference" for the Prime Minister after the election victory.

Certainly Mr Blair can expect a hero's reception today - but he is preparing to deliver a tough warning to his party after sensing that some people were becoming too complacent. "Some people seem to think that we've won and that's it; they've got a different think coming," an aide said. Mr Blair did not want to be "just another prime minister managing decline".

Mr Blair himself will tell the conference that a quiet revolution has been going on since May 1 led by the "real modernisers: the British people", and say: "We will never be the biggest, but we can be the best."



Mandelson: wanted to show he was moving from "backroom fixer to ordinary politician"

Insurance could replace state sickness benefits

BY OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

GREATER use of insurance to replace a range of state benefits is being considered by the Government as part of the reform of the welfare state to be heralded by Tony Blair today.

Senior ministers involved in welfare reviews being conducted across Whitehall say that the shake-up is to go back to "first principles" and question whether many of the benefits taken for granted should continue to be paid out of state coffers. Injury and sickness benefits could go.

Industrial injuries benefit, which will cost the Exchequer £660 million next year, is an obvious candidate to be

scrapped. Incapacity benefit is another that will come under the microscope. None of the benefits which Labour is pledged to keep will be affected.

However, ministers say that the greater use of insurance must be considered if the Government is serious about tackling the huge welfare bill. Mr Blair will not go into detail but make plain that the welfare state reform through encouraging work not dependency is one of the two central projects of his Government, the other being education.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, will tomorrow signal the direction of

reform by unveiling a package of measures to persuade the disabled to give up their benefits and return to work. People on long-term sickness benefit will be invited to take advice on training to find ways back from benefit.

The reviews going on in Whitehall will be considered by the Cabinet by the turn of the year. Ministers are hopeful that any legislation required could come forward the following autumn.

Mr Blair will say today that the British people are creative and compassionate but "our compassion will be worthless unless we modernise our welfare state."

Friends of Princess welcome new disclosures

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, DANIEL MCGORRY AND JOANNA BAILE

FRIENDS of Diana, Princess of Wales, last night welcomed the fact that the record had finally been put straight on how details were published about her marriage and life as a member of the Royal Family.

Associates of the late Princess expressed satisfaction and relief at the disclosure by the author Andrew Morton that his best-selling book, published five years ago shortly before her failed marriage became public knowledge, was in fact an autobiography, largely dictated and corrected by the Princess herself.

But Buckingham Palace expressed sadness that a new version of the book, being published so soon after the Princess's tragic death a month ago, Palace officials were dismayed to discover that the book was based on six lengthy interviews in 1992. The Times is publishing the foreword and an extract from a chapter written since the Princess's death.

In a brief statement yesterday the Palace said: "The book is nothing new, but the timing of its re-release is particularly sad, coming as it does so soon after the Princess's death. We do not intend to contribute to its publicity by making any further comment."

At the time of the book's publication, Palace officials went to extraordinary lengths to distance the Princess from Mr Morton's book, believed at the time to have been compiled from interviews with friends talking with the Princess's approval. But many of those friends yesterday said they were glad the truth had now been told.

Muriel Stevens, who was a friend of the Princess and who was acknowledged as a source

in the original book, said last night: "I guess she was put under a lot of pressure by the Palace to deny, to keep the fairytale going, but now it is important that everyone should know the truth."

Today The Times publishes the second half of Mr Morton's foreword to his revised version entitled *Diana, Her True Story - In Her Own Words*.

In it he discloses that the Princess of Wales personally altered the original manuscript to protect the Queen from embarrassment. She made the change to a section dealing with one of her apparent suicide attempts which was witnessed by the Queen.

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"During the interviews she said that when she threw herself down the stairs at Sandringham, while pregnant with Prince William, the Queen was the first on the scene," Mr Morton writes. "On the manuscript, Diana altered the text and inserted the Queen Mother's name presumably out of deference to the Sovereign."

The Princess provided Mr Morton with several letters and postcards from Mrs Parker-Bowles to Prince Charles to prove that she was not imagining their relationship. Those billets-doux, passionate, loving and full of suppressed longing left my publisher and I in absolutely no doubt that Diana's suspicions were correct. However, for fear of libel, Mr Morton referred only to a "secret"

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Gilts profits

City firms earned millions in gilt futures trading ahead of a report that the Cabinet had taken a more positive stance on a single currency Page 25

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Ratings battle as BBC's 'fantasy football' team get transfer to ITV

BY CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV has raided the BBC's ideas and talent cupboard in an attempt to arrest its ratings decline and convince advertisers that it has a future in the digital age.

Programme makers have persuaded *Fantasy Football*, the cult BBC show that gave rise to the Euro '96 anthem *Three Lions*, to defect to independent television with its star presenters David Baddiel and Frank Skinner. They will present 10 live shows during the World Cup next year.

Richard Wilson, who stars as Victor Meldrew in BBC's *One Foot in the Grave*, has also been poached for a new comedy series *Duck Patrol*. The *Wombles*, the BBC children's show of the 1970s, is also being revived with a Chinese addition to the *Womble* clan.

In a move regarded as a "dumbing up" of a network often associated with "tacky" quiz shows, David Liddiment, independent television's new director of programmes, said that he wanted more factual programmes and more quality drama to push up the ratings and compete with flagship will have to be re-scheduled, told a gathering of advertisers BBC shows such as *Casualty*, some reinvented and other given in London that he understood He agreed that ITV had been an early retirement. Mr their frustrations over poor under-performing and had Liddiment. "I am not afraid of ratings. He asked them for 100 allowed the BBC to "steal a kill off programmes that are days to come up with a strategy march", particularly with factu- under-performing."



Skinner, left, Baddiel and Wilson: poached by ITV for revamped schedules

vision has a higher share of decline and neither has David audiences than any rival, it has (Liddiment)", he said.

Next year ITV will have its own version of *Airport* - *Air* - recent years by a Channel 4, a said that they had accepted a line, a documentary following more competitive BBC and transfer to ITV because it was the crew on a British charter growing numbers of cable and willing to pump more money airline. It will also carry four satellite channels. Advertisers into the show. They said they adaptations of *Tass* of the who buy commercial airtime decided to revive it because so *DUchervilles*, *Far From the have complained that they are many people kept asking when it was going to be on again. "We thought 'Why are we being so*

Richard Eyre, starting on his money about it? Let's milk it until it's dead."

"Some of our programmes first day as ITV's chief executive, until it's dead."

New proof of CJD-BSE link

Compelling evidence that BSE can be transmitted to humans has been found by British scientists. The results confirm that 21 people who contracted a new form of the brain disease CJD almost certainly did so from eating infected beef.

Scientists have been able to show that the new variant form of CJD is indistinguishable from BSE in its effects when it is injected into mice Page 2

Taleban detains Euro aid chief

Armed religious police of the Islamic Taleban held Emma Bonino, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, and 18 other people for more than three hours after pictures of women were taken in an Afghan hospital.

Signora Bonino said: "I was scared because they were fully armed and had Kalashnikovs pointed at us" Page 10

Assisi looters

Police in Italy say that pieces of art works that were damaged in last week's earthquake in Assisi are finding their way on to the black market Page 13

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Steely band disturbs the sleep of the wary

ABIDING in the mind after Brighton this week will be the memory of steel: steel railings everywhere, steel in the Prime Minister's smile, steel in Labour's grip, steel in the eyes of the evangelists of "new politics" as they pump your hand and scrutinise your security pass.

Long before you arrive the steel security fences start. To these the party has pinned two posters in equal numbers. One, red on a white background, declares "New Labour New Britain". The other is white on a red background. It says "New Labour New Britain". On the approach to the promenade this message is repeated 51 times.

At the seafront you turn to confront the security zone

itself. This is guarded against attack from the ocean by more steel. Upon it appears the message "New Labour New Britain", 215 times.

In the middle stands the conference centre. Its facade is decked, to the left, by a huge banner hanging vertically. It bears the message "New Labour New Britain". To the right hangs another banner. It says the same. Between the vertical banners is a horizontal one: "Brighton & Hove welcome New Labour" — an audacious departure from the standard text which, it is to be hoped, will not confuse delegates. From the beach comes the lament of a trombone solo played by a man complaining about sick pay. Few notice.

To enter the hall you must



first enter a long tunnel. In this the visitor passes the message "New Labour New Britain" 42 more times. Frisked at a security check, visitors can read "New Labour New Britain" four times more on the walls above the X-ray machines. In the final section of tunnel the thought "New Labour New Britain" appears seven times, and "Group 4 — Have you got your pass?" once.

I joined delegates crowding in to hear John Prescott and looked down at the conference floor. Virtually everybody was white. But in a

small reserved area behind me most seemed black or brown.

"Gosh," I thought, but without surprise, "they've put the coloured people in a separate pen, away from the cameras." In fact, this was the international visitors' section. Outside, beyond the steel, one could hear the wailing of dissident demonstrators borne on the wind, but very faint.

Robin Cook showed delegates a video of Tony Blair on a walkabout, Tony Blair in a helicopter. In a coach, at a school, in a car, in a field and

hugging some children, all to the accompaniment of happy music.

John Prescott introduced a woman who showed slides to assist delegates' understanding. There were graphics of three stick-figure men, the third engulfed in light and bearing the logo "new", to illustrate Labour's new support. Near the end of her show came a slide saying: "1997: Labour's Best Election Ever", then another saying "Thank You". Wisely, the final slide did not say "Now Go Away". Best not to spell it out.

Later, Gordon Brown spoke with authority, and the pallor of the undead. Were one to glance down and notice that a junior minister had talons where fingernails

should be, it would hardly seem worth mentioning.

I had woken in the night in my conference hotel, disturbed by the deep bark of a big dog somewhere outside in the dark where guards patrol: then by the sound of a crowd-barrier being dragged across asphalt.

Then a scream, twice repeated. Then silence. A detainee, suspected of unmodern thoughts, under interrogation by Mr Mandelson's mind-police? Or just a seagull on the early tide? Strange thoughts crowd the brain at this surreal celebration, with something acrid in the air. Beneath the applause there is a grinding of teeth.

Conference report, page 8, 9

New evidence underlines CJD link with beef

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

COMPELLING evidence that BSE can be transmitted to humans has been found by scientists. The results confirm that 21 people who contracted a new form of the brain disease CJD almost certainly did so from eating infected beef.

By dispelling remaining uncertainties about the link, the findings seem certain to boost calls made by victims' families for a full judicial inquiry.

Scientific groups from Edinburgh and London have been able to show that the new variant form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is indistinguishable from BSE in its effects when injected into mice.

Not only did the mice develop the disease in exactly the same period of time after injection, but extracts of infected brain were identical to those found in BSE-infected cattle. Other forms of CJD developed at a different speed and produced different molecules in the brain.

John Collinge, the leader of the team from St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, says that he has reached the "ines-

capable conclusion" that the new variant of CJD is the human equivalent of BSE and that eating beef is probably to blame.

His findings, and those of a team led by Moura Bruce of the Neurodegeneration Unit in Edinburgh, are published in this week's *Nature*. The findings were released early after a report of them appeared in *The Sunday Times*.

Dr Bruce took brain tissue from victims of the new variant and from six patients who had died of the classical form of the disease, and injected it into different strains of laboratory mice. One strain, called RIII, died 300-350 days after being injected.

Dr Bruce's results show that the RIII mice injected with the new variant — known as nvCJD — have died at the same time as if injected with BSE. The appearance of their brains was the same as mice brains infected by BSE. "Our data provide strong evidence that the same agent is involved in both BSE and nvCJD," the team concludes. When taken with the epidemiological data,

the evidence becomes "compelling", they say.

A second strain of mice, called C57BL, have also been injected with the brain extracts. They are beginning to show signs of disease, as would be expected if BSE and nvCJD were identical.

The two new studies do not change assumptions about nvCJD and BSE. The Government was advised by the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee in March 1996 that there was probably a link and accepted the advice. Some scientists remained sceptical, but this latest evidence is as convincing as it is likely to get.

The advisory committee said yesterday that the new research was convincing but did not call for any change in policy. The necessary measures to protect the public and in animal health were in place already, it said.

Dr Collinge said yesterday: "We believe that the combined weight of the evidence leads to the same inescapable conclusion: new variant CJD is the human counterpart of BSE."

Relatives of 'new' victims demand compensation

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

RELATIVES of victims of the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) linked to BSE in cattle called yesterday for financial compensation and a public inquiry into how people came to be exposed to the fatal brain infection.

Dorothy Churchill, of Devizes, Wiltshire, whose son Stephen died in May 1995 at the age of 19, said: "We have been waiting for 18 months for these test results. We hope this will help our campaign to put pressure on the Government

to set up a full judicial inquiry into the BSE crisis.

"We also want to see money made available to help in the nursing of victims of CJD. The Government was quick enough to compensate farmers for cows that got BSE. We feel that they should make some sort of compensation award to the families."

Stephen Churchill was the first of 21 people to have been confirmed so far as victims of the new strain of CJD, which they are presumed to

have contracted by eating beef infected with BSE.

Stephen's parents pressed their case at a meeting last night with a group of Members of the European Parliament at an hotel in Exeter. The Euro-MPs are on a three-day visit to inspect British abattoirs and rendering plants.

David Churchill, Stephen's father, said he hoped the European Parliament would put pressure on the Government to provide "no-fault compensation" for affected families.



Sophie Anderton wearing a Westwood design, part of the Red Label collection, at the Globe theatre yesterday

Westwood puts the best fronts forward at the Globe

By Grace Bradberry, Style Editor

THE glamour model Melinda Messenger made an appearance at the Globe theatre yesterday as Vivienne Westwood used voluptuous women to model her Red Label collection, shown as part of London Fashion Week.

The show, staged in the undercroft of the theatre on the South Bank, also featured the television presenter Denise Van Outen and Sophie Anderton, the model best known for bra adverts. Although the theme was the well-bred "English Girl Abroad", the styling was more saucy peasant.

In tabloid speak, Miss Messenger cavorted before photographers in a ruffled mini-skirt and knotted cropped shirt. Overall, the collection was a curious mixture of slinky, full-length glitter dresses, blue sailor outfits, and flouncy dresses harking back to the 1970s.

There was a near repeat of Naomi Campbell's famous catwalk fall when one model slipped on the outrageous cork platform sandals. The mini-skirted suits were also in familiar Westwood territory.

Also showing was Richard Tyler, the New York designer who was a favourite of Hollywood stars. His show at the Oxo Tower was one of the hot tickets of the week.

Earlier, the British designer Paul Frith showed a sleek collection of grey tailored skirts and batwing-sleeved jersey dresses.

The designer Alexander McQueen yesterday served a writ on a student who has accused him of stealing a design. The row involves an "off the breast" dress shown at McQueen's Paris show in January. Trevor Merrell, 35, has been given legal aid to sue McQueen after claiming it was a copy of a dress he made. McQueen lodged a counterclaim in the High Court after Mr Merrell refused to sign an apology agreeing to cease making the allegations.

Checks on children after asbestos scare

Health officials and police were trying to trace a company that illegally dumped more than 200 bin bags of blue asbestos around Birmingham. The red and black bags were dumped on streets, on wasteland and at the back of two industrial premises.

Gavin Tringham, head of Birmingham's environmental protection unit, said children had been seen tearing open the bags and throwing the asbestos over each other. Last night seven of the children had been traced and their clothes and homes were being decontaminated. A doctor will examine them to decide whether they should have long-term monitoring.

The bags were taken away for disposal and specialist companies worked through the day to make the dumping sites safe. Crown courts can impose unlimited fines for illegal dumping of asbestos.

Handguns warning

Gun owners face up to ten years in prison or a £5,000 fine if they do not surrender any handguns above .22 calibre by tonight. Alun Michael, the Home Office Minister responsible for criminal policy, said that during the three-month amnesty many gun owners had co-operated with the police. He understood their anger over the ban but they would receive compensation.

Fireman shot in the eye

A fireman may require surgery to save his sight after being shot in the eye at the scene of a fire in a disused pub in Middlesbrough. The officer, whose name was not released, was hit with an airgun pellet while drinking coffee provided by a neighbour. He was taken to Middlesbrough General Hospital with fragments of the pellet still in his eye. The fire was being treated as arson.

Man joins election race

A man has won a place in the previously all-female race to become President of Ireland. Derek Nally, 60, a private detective, secured the required backing of four county councils to contest the election on October 30. He will compete against the singer Dana, Mary McAleese, Adi Roche and Mary Banotti. Nominations for the £100,000-a-year post close at noon today.

Oldest man dies at 108

England's oldest man — who gave up smoking when he was 97 and lived through the reigns of four kings and two queens — has died at the age of 108. George Cook, an award-winning gardener, died in his sleep on Saturday at a retirement home in Dorking, Surrey. Mr Cook, who fought at Ypres and in the Battle of the Somme, had more than 40 great-grandchildren.

New top policeman

The new head of the National Criminal Intelligence Service will be John Abbott, the current deputy director. Mr Abbott, 48, has been deputy since October. He joined Sussex police in 1968 and has served in the Royal Hong Kong Police and as an assistant inspector of constabulary at the Home Office. Mr Abbott replaces Albert Pacey, who retired last month.

Explorer dies in tunnel

An investigation was launched after a man apparently suffocated as he and a friend explored an old tunnel. Robert Ashcroft, 18, collapsed 30 metres inside the tunnel, believed to be a drainage culvert, beneath a slag heap at the former Hildesheim Main colliery near Thurnscoe, south Yorkshire. His friend, 19, was taken to hospital. The mine closed ten years ago.

Hope for vice children

Police and social services in Manchester are setting up a "rescue squad" to save child prostitutes from life on the streets after some as young as 13 have been reported openly soliciting for sex. The scheme, similar to one in the Midlands, is designed to guide young people towards welfare agencies instead of the courts. Last year, figures showed there were 5,000 child prostitutes on the streets.

Potter shop on market

The shop immortalised by Beatrix Potter as the home of the Tailor of Gloucester is for sale. Thousands of tourists visit the shop, beside Gloucester Cathedral, which was sketched by Potter for the 1902 book. It is being sold by her publisher, Frederick Warne and Co, because retailing is not its core business. Gloucester council may bid for the freehold, priced at £75,000.

Marquess turns rebel over Hague reforms

By Andrew Pierce

A CONSERVATIVE peer who lives in a 15-room stately home yesterday raised the standard of revolt against William Hague's abandonment of voting rights for hereditary peers.

The 8th Marquess of Hertford, the master of Ragley Hall in Warwickshire, insisted that the experience of running a 6,000-acre estate offered a valuable contribution to democracy. Hereditary peers "have a lot of experience at many different jobs", he said. "If, together with a peerage, you have inherited a large country estate, you have to learn a lot about farming, forestry, maintenance of houses and conversion of farm buildings."

Lord Hertford, 67, who was

educated at Eton, separated from his wife in 1995. Neither wanted to move from their 17th century estate, so he remained in ten of the rooms in the mansion while his wife moved half-a-mile up the drive to a house that was the gardener's cottage.

Lord Hertford, whose personal fortune is estimated at £14 million, attended at a third of the 74 sittings of the House of Lords last year. He admitted he would be at a loss if Labour carried out its manifesto commitment, which the Tory leader has decided not to oppose, to strip the sitting and voting rights of hereditary peers. "I don't know what I would do. Not a lot I suppose," he told Radio 4's *The World at One*.

The 300-year-old Ragley Hall, which

Lord Hertford saved from demolition, and its gardens, is visited by about 90,000 tourists each year. The estate should keep him busy. It includes an adventure playground, and dinner parties are held at the Great Hall.

Lord Hertford maintained that owners of stately homes had valuable skills. "Many of us have learnt a lot about the tourist trade. There is quite a variety of good jobs to be good at and, with all due modesty, I have been pretty successful at all of them."

Lord Hertford was planning to discuss the Hague reforms with Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the House of Lords, and a scion of the Cecil dynasty. He hoped that Mr Hague would reconsider.

He said that the Prime Minister's

plans to replace the hereditary peers with dozens of life peers would not improve the quality of the debate in the Lords. "It will make it less interesting and less useful."

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, a Tory life peer, accepted the need for reform of the House of Lords. He suggested that existing hereditary peers might be allowed to remain in the House, while their heirs should be excluded. Diehard Tory supporters of hereditary voting rights would have to accept that change was inevitable, he said. "There is a group of what I will call 'solid' Conservatives who will be distressed by it going in any reforming direction but they will have to realise if we hope to return to power we can no longer imagine we can stay still."



Lord Hertford

Pub friends hit double lottery jackpot with mistaken entry

A PUB syndicate hit the lottery jackpot twice at the weekend after accidentally putting one of their regular sets of numbers on two different coupons. The four punters from the Royal Oak in New Ash Green, Kent, scooped £10.8 million — two of the five shares of the weekend's rollover jackpot.

Kevin Papworth, 36, an electrician and the syndicate

leader, said: "Once I saw the jackpot line on one of our tickets I didn't bother checking the rest. It wasn't until the following day our lucky mistake was discovered."

The other members of the syndicate are Tony Young, 53, the publican, Steve Cook, 29, manager of a double glazing firm, and Doug Hedges, 33, a network analyst. They beat odds of 196

million to one to net their double win.

It was only the day after Mr Papworth accidentally wrote down the same line twice, when they were celebrating what they thought was a £5 million win, that Camelot told them they had hit the jackpot twice. Yesterday, the four pub friends, all from Dartford, celebrated their win with lager.



Every one a two-time winner: left to right, Papworth, Young, Cook and Hedges

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Bullies torment Salvation Army girl to death

Russell Jenkins reports on the suspected suicide of a teenager unable to bear the victimisation any longer

THE parents of a 13-year-old girl, found dead early yesterday after a suspected overdose, have blamed the tragedy on young bullies who targeted the family because they belonged to the Salvation Army.

Kelly Yeomans and her family were subjected to insults, taunts and abuse by a group of youngsters who were said to have hurled eggs, flour, stones and even a dead fish at their home in Allenton, Derby.

The bombardment had been stepped up over the weekend.

Derbyshire Constabulary are investigating the circumstances surrounding the schoolgirl's death. They intend to interview a number of youths who, it is alleged, were "tormenting Kelly and her family".

Kelly's body was discovered shortly before 8am yesterday by her mother, Julie Yeomans, 42, when she went to wake her up in time for school. She had swallowed an overdose of painkillers.

She is believed to have taken around 40 of the tablets which were originally prescribed for her mother. Paramedics arrived shortly afterwards but were unable to revive her.

Mrs Yeomans and her husband, Ivan, 45, spoke of their daughter's torment at the hands of the bullies. She said that Kelly was so upset by the onslaught that she had warned earlier that she could not take much more.

The youths began terrorising the family three years ago because, they believe, of their association with the Salvation Army.

Kelly and her older sister Sarah, 16, played in a band and visited old people's homes.

A group of youths gathered outside the house last Thursday and Friday. They shouted abuse and threw eggs but fled



Kelly: took overdose

when the police were called. Mrs Yeomans said that Kelly had been deeply upset by her experience last Friday when she was called a "smelly bastard". She said: "I went out, but they just told me, 'We've told you. Get back in, you smelly bastards'."

"Kelly said to me on Friday 'I've had enough Mum. I'm going to take an overdose.' I really didn't think she would. I just thought she was depressed. It is terrible."

"She was a very happy girl. She would do anything for anyone. I just wish these people who have done this could tell me why they have taken my daughter away from us."

Mr Yeomans said that Kelly had confided in him last week that she felt threatened and frightened. He had tried to reassure her. "I told her not to be frightened we have got the law on our side," he said.

"I have been around to the council no end of times to complain, but it is all form filling. All I wanted was for it

to stop. They saw us as a soft family and they just bullied us, now they have driven my daughter to her death."

Neighbours spoke of how youths on the problem council estate had thrown stones at the homes of elderly residents.

Michael Shaw, principal of Merrill College, Derby, where Kelly went to school, said that to his knowledge there had been no incidents of bullying on school premises. He said: "The first we became aware of this was after we were told of Kelly's death. Her parents never approached us about there being a problem at school and neither did Kelly."

Detective Inspector Mark Chestham, leading the investigation, said: "We understand Kelly and her family were being tormented by local youths. We will be interviewing them later in relation to possible offences of harassment."

Major Pamela Nutt, commanding officer of the South Derby Salvation Army, said: "This has come as a terrible shock to all our members. Those who knew Kelly spoke very warmly of her and it is a great shame that the local community has lost someone who cared so much."

Kelly's sister Sarah said Kelly had been the victim of persistent bullying at school and had often been teased because she was overweight. She said: "It got to the stage where she was frightened to go out of the house because she got called 'fat'. My Mum had a go at them, but it didn't do any good."

Sarah said that her sister had threatened to take an overdose if the tormenting did not stop. "She said she had had enough of it and that she was going to take an overdose. We tried to hide the pills from her."



Vanessa Hardwick: claimed sexual discrimination over FA coaching exam setback

Leaky defence 'led to woman coach's failure'

By Peter Foster

A FOOTBALL coach who claims that she was denied a top qualification because she was a woman had been "incompetent" and had made "fundamental errors", an industrial tribunal heard yesterday.

Vanessa Hardwick, 32, is claiming sexual discrimination against the Football Association after she failed to get her advanced coaching licence last year. Last week Ms Hardwick, a PE teacher from Ickenham, northwest London, told the tribunal that her failure on the male-dominated course had left her feeling humiliated.

John McDermott, the FA's regional director in the South East, said yesterday that Ms Hardwick had failed because she was "not up to the standard". He explained how one of Ms Hardwick's errors had left an attacker with a free run on goal: "She gave the wrong information to the defender."

The FA's highest coaching award, held by an estimated 80 per cent of Premier League managers, would have no credibility if it were awarded to someone who made such elementary errors.

Last week Ms Hardwick complained that she had been placed at a disadvantage because her all-male

assessors had marked her on her ability to coach the men's game rather than women's. Mr McDermott said: "If Ms Hardwick coached a women's premier league side like that they would leak goals like a sieve."

Later in the hearing Ted Copeland, current coach of the England women's football team, said that coaching women was not substantially different from working with men's teams. Asked if there were any differences Mr Copeland said women tended to be more emotional. "At any one time 25 per cent of my players have menstrual problems." He was asked if he had any experience of women at a lower level. "Do you mean as a footballer?" he replied, sending the tribunal chairman Michael Rabin into fits of laughter. "That is not a good joke to make in a sexual discrimination case," countered Jane Deighton, for Ms Hardwick.

Kelly Simmons, the FA's national co-ordinator for women's football, said that the FA had a carefully devised strategy for encouraging women's football. "If a woman were at the required level the FA would encourage her to sit for the advanced licence," she added. Judgment was reserved.

Woman boxer punches hard for equality

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FEMALE boxing champion is seeking to strike a blow in the courts for women's right to fight. In what is thought to be the first case of its kind, Jane Couch, 29, the women's world welterweight champion, wants to count out the British Boxing Board of Control's opposition to women fighting professionally.

The Lancashire boxer, billed as the Fleetwood Assassin, is making her attempt for equality at a London

industrial tribunal, alleging restriction of trade and sexual discrimination. She wants the board to rescind its decision to deny her application for a professional licence. The board opposes female fighters on medical grounds.

Last week, Vanessa Hardwick lodged a claim, with the backing of the Equal Opportunities Commission, against the Football Association over its refusal to grant her the FA advanced coaching licence.

Ms Couch is confident of her contest prospects. "Britain is stuck in the Dark Ages. It is the only country in the world

where I cannot fight professionally on the same bill as men," she said. Papers were lodged initially for an industrial tribunal in Bristol but the hearing will now be in Croydon, South London. The date has yet to be fixed.

Ms Couch trains at Tex Woodward's gym at Compton Greenfield, near Bristol. He supports her courtroom fight: "If a person wants to box they should be allowed to box, whether male or female. A male barrister trains at our gym and he believes Jane should win, as European law says that women should have equal rights."



Couch: world title

Judge frees 'Magnificent Seven' who stole back docked wages

By Michael Horsnell

A GROUP of "improvised" drivers who stole £36,000 from the bus company they worked for escaped with community service orders from a sympathetic judge when he heard that they decided to steal back their wages after being docked as much as £100 a week.

Judge Michael Evans, QC, was told their take-home pay was as low as £33 a week. Workmates who knew about the scam at Shamrock

Coaches in south Wales dubbed the men the "Magnificent Seven" for stealing from the fares they collected by sneaking two computerised tills on to their buses while only handing over the cash from one.

But the company hit back last night, challenging their plea of mitigation after the men had pleaded guilty and criticising the conduct of prosecuting counsel. Granville Owen, operations supervisor, said after the case that Shamrock would start civil proceedings to recover the stolen money from the men whom they have already sacked.

He criticised the conduct of the case by the Crown Prosecution Service which he demanded should launch an appeal against sentence. The company vehemently denied underpaying the defendants and the allegation made in court that wage records had been destroyed by the company.

The case will be reviewed by the CPS after a protest letter was sent yesterday by Alison Jones, the owner of the company which operates buses throughout south Wales.

Peter Murphy, defending the men at Cardiff Crown Court last Friday, told the judge: "They are all hard working, honest men with a genuine grievance. The company was acting very badly and grossly underpaid their employees. They regularly deducted large sums of money without conscience from the pay packets of their employees each

week. "The drivers sometimes took home as little as £33 for a full week after deductions. That was not enough money to feed a family. They were owed the money in unpaid wages so they took it."

Drivers Ken Evans, Ceri Williams, Lynn Davies, Jason Davies, Anthony Lindsay, Mike Williams and Jeff Holt all admitted theft totalling £36,756 at an earlier hearing at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court. It was said that Mr Evans, 41, worked through his holidays for

extra cash to buy Christmas presents for his children but his bosses docked all of the extra money he earned.

Hugh Wallace, prosecuting, said the fraud operated by the men — aged between 30 and 46 — was eventually spotted by managers at the company's head office in Abercynon, Glamorgan. The judge ordered all but one of the men, who come from Aberdare, Mountain Ash and Pontypridd, to do 120 hours of community service, while

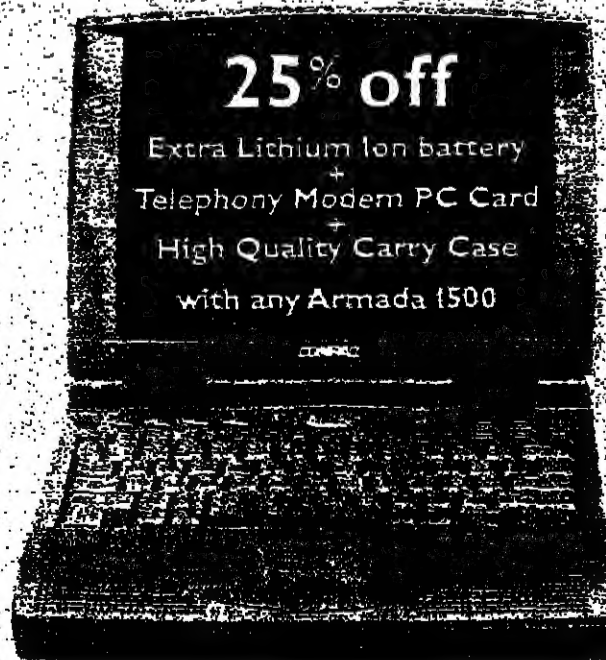
Anthony Lindsay was sentenced to a year's probation.

Judge Evans said: "This is an exceptional case. You each have a sense of grievance against your former employers over unpaid wages."

"There are many grounds to support your grievance. I don't believe it would be fair or just to make you pay compensation or costs."

An angry Mr Owen said after the case: "This is a travesty of justice."

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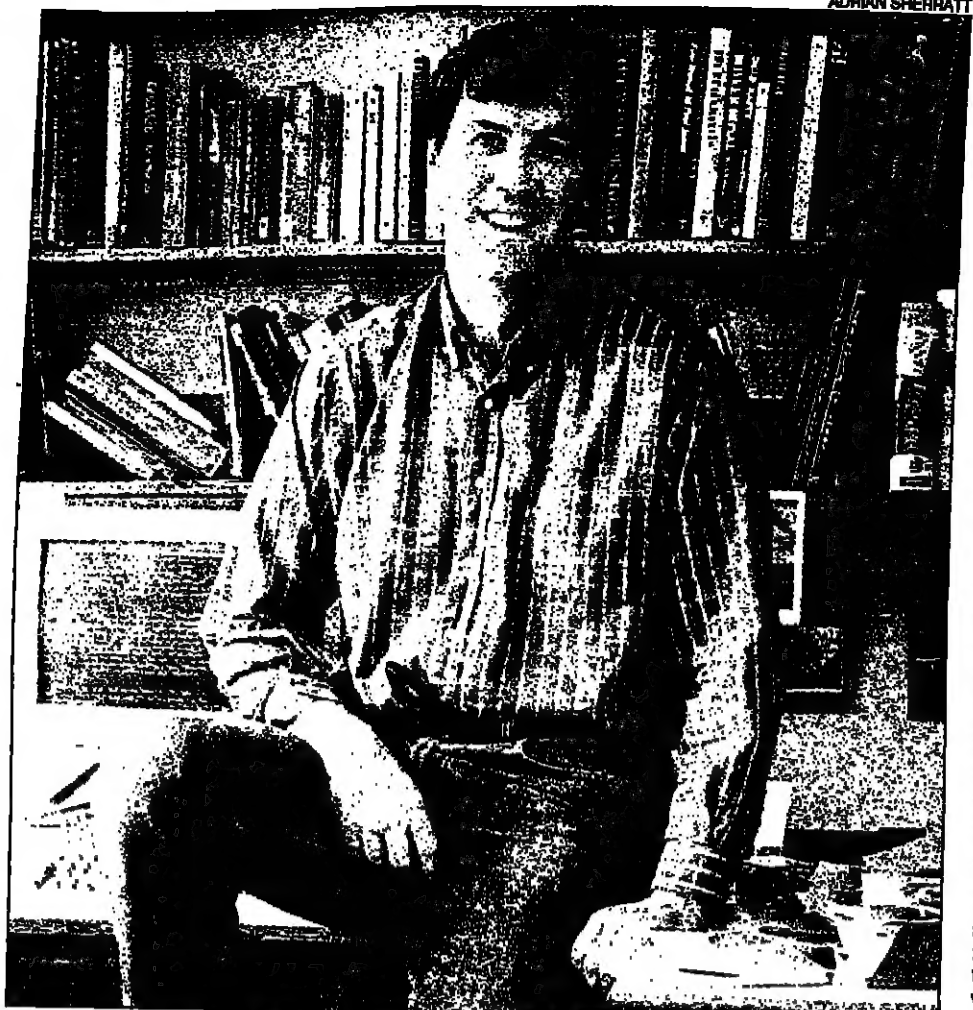
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Friends say the truth has to be told

Joanna Bale and Daniel McGrory find mixed reactions to Andrew Morton's book



Andrew Morton in his study. A million copies of the new book have been printed

THE extent of the co-operation by Diana, Princess of Wales, in the production of Andrew Morton's book came as a surprise to many of her friends who were asked by her to co-operate with the author. Some had been pilloried in 1992 for "gossiping" about the Princess's private life and the book was dismissed as "impertinent". Muriel Stevens, who knew the Princess and was one of those acknowledged as a source in the biography, said it was important that people should know the truth.

Mrs Stevens, said yesterday: "I was quite stunned when she denied that she had cooperated. When Andrew Morton contacted me while writing the book I said I would like to clear it with the Princess before I spoke to him. I rang Buckingham Palace and was put through to the Princess of Wales's office. The answer I got was, 'Yes, this is an official book, the Princess is more than happy for you to talk to Mr Morton to confirm what she has told him'."

"I guessed she had spoken to him herself because certain

things he mentioned to me could only have come from her." Mrs Stevens, who is chief executive of the British Allergy Foundation, kept in touch with the Princess after meeting her when she did voluntary work as a schoolgirl with patients with learning difficulties at the Darenth Park Hospital in Kent, which is now closed. Delissa Need-

Diana, the never ending story pages 14, 15

ham, an old schoolfriend of the Princess who was also a source for the book, said: "I can understand the criticism that it may be too soon after her death, but when is too soon and when is too late? Andrew Morton has just told the truth and people want to know the truth about Diana."

Michael Nash, a lecturer in law at Norwich City College who wrote the last chapter of the original book about the constitutional implications of a royal divorce, said: "It's only a month since she died and everything is still very painful,

but sometimes these things have to be done quickly to set the record straight."

"Buckingham Palace likes to keep anything like this in a low profile, but we are in an era when things are much more open — an era that the Palace has not yet adjusted to. I worked very closely with Andrew and I knew his sources were unimpeachable, but I never realised that the Princess was actually correcting proofs."

Other former friends of the Princess who were sources for the book declined to comment yesterday. James Gilbey, whose intimate conversation with the Princess was featured in the "Squidgy" tapes, said: "We have always maintained our silence over this matter. It was a matter of confidence then and it remains so now."

Lord St John of Fawsley said he had not known that the Princess was so closely involved with the production of the book, but commented: "It was clear from careful reading that the Princess had played some part in it. Clearly this was much greater than we ever imagined." A spokes-



Muriel Stevens checked with Princess's office

woman for Earl Spencer, the Princess's brother, said he did not wish to comment. Mr Morton's disclosure was condemned last night by former MP James Hill, who was chairman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee at the time of the Princess's divorce. "This will only cause more needless pain to the young princess and others so an author can make money."

"I have recommended to Her Majesty before and will do so again now that the Royal Family should use the courts of law to protect themselves from what is sure to be an avalanche of Diana books all making outrageous claims that she clearly cannot deny."

Lord Blake said: "I don't think this will add anything and it is too soon after her death for such disclosures."

The revised book was denounced as "despicable, shameful and cynical" by Tory MP Teresa Gorman. Mrs Gorman, MP for Billericay, said: "The Princess was hunted in life and now she is hunted in death. This is a cynical and shameful attempt to exploit her memory from beyond the grave and to regenerate sales. It is as bad as anything the cameramen ever did to chase her. To do this at this time seems to me exactly what we were promised the press would not do, which is to exploit people's confidences and private matters."

Mrs Gorman said this undermined the necessity for some kind of privacy legislation. This is no better than those people who were prepared to make money out of her life when she was alive. Now if this is to start happening when she is the other side of the grave, it is even more dreadful."

Sir Teddy Taylor, Tory MP for Southend East and Rochford, said: "I think it is cold and unfeeling for Mr Morton to make these controversial disclosures after the tragic death of the Princess. Everyone knew she was going through a great deal of torment, and in my view it seems that the whole business is simply another ploy to boost sales for the book."

"I think that Mr Morton should have said nothing at all. And I hope that on reflection he will realise that

what he has done is not the action of a perfect English gentleman."

Peter Luff, Conservative MP for Mid-Worcestershire, commented: "This has left a pretty nasty taste in my mouth. Presumably, if the Princess had wanted her autobiography to be written and had used Mr Morton as a ghost writer she would have done it that way. I find it rather surprising that he should have chosen this moment to make these revelations."

Ann Winterton, Conservative MP for Congleton, said: "I very much regret that Andrew Morton has made known the fact of the Princess's involvement in his book. Following the sad death of the Princess it seems to me to lack integrity and honour to give information which, if she had wanted it to be known, would have herself made it known during her lifetime."

Mr Morton wrote in yesterday's Times that his revised edition was to allow historians and the public a greater understanding of the troubled Princess. He would not name the intermediary who presented his written questions and collected the Princess's candid responses. According to Mr Morton, the Princess

authorised every revelation and personally approved every page of the original book. He said she read the manuscript, made detailed changes to it in her own hand and supplied photographs from family albums. She even supplied names and details for captions to the family photographs and chose the famous cover picture, the author claimed. The publishers, Michael O'Mara, said both themselves and Mr Morton would be making a "substantial" donation to landmine victims from the proceeds of the new book which goes on sale next week.

A spokeswoman said details had not yet been finalised and an announcement was set to be made before the book's publication in Britain next Monday.

She said a million copies of the book had already been printed worldwide to cope with the huge demand across Europe and in English-speaking countries such as the United States and Australia.

I never realised the Princess was actually correcting proofs

Princess denial

Continued from page 1
friendship". The Princess kept the true extent of her involvement in this book from most of her closest confidants, including the writer Clive James.

She once told him over lunch: "I really had nothing to do with that Andrew Morton book... but after my friends talked to him, I had to stand by them."

Such revelations along with proof of the Princess's intimate involvement with the author Andrew Morton will disturb many in the Royal Family who were given assurances by the Princess at the time that she had played no part in the book's preparation.

At one stage Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's Private Secretary and the husband of her sister Lady Jane Spencer, had visited the Princess at home in Kensington Palace to seek a written assurance that she was not involved.

"The Palace knew it had to mount a defence and the most effective was to be able to say that the Princess knew nothing about this and the book was all hearsay and gossip," a former senior palace aide said last night.

"She gave a categorical denial

to him verbally. She later repeated this in front of the Queen and other members of the Royal Family. It is fair to say that some members did harbour suspicions that Diana may have allowed her friends to co-operate, but I do not believe anyone thought she was so closely involved, that she corrected the manuscript."

CORRECTIONS

Our report (September 19) of the FA charges against Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers claimed that they had admitted in court taking money for forecasting matches in which they had played. We are glad to make it clear, and we accept, that neither did so. Grobbelaar accepted that he forecast English matches; Segers that he forecast Dutch matches, and occasionally supplied information about English matches.

Mrs Vera May, breeder of British bulldogs, does not support Ken Mollett in his efforts to cross the breed, contrary to a report of September 25.

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FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN UNSEEMLY "inheritance war" has erupted within the family of Frank Sinatra, pitting the 81-year-old singer's three children — Tina, Frank Jr. and Nancy — against his fourth wife, Barbara.

Just when Sinatra, who suffers from chronic heart trouble, should be enjoying his last years in peace, so the rivals for his vast fortune appear to be girding themselves to do battle over his \$200 million (£124 million) fortune.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, skirmishes have been raging all year between Tina, Sinatra's youngest daughter, and Mrs Sinatra, over the merchandising of the entertainer's name on ties, pasta sauce, Californian sparkling wine, "singing" porcelain souvenir plates (embedded with a computer chip that carries Sinatra's voice), and other products of questionable taste.

Tina Sinatra, 49, is the chief executive of Sheffield Enterprises Inc, formed some years ago by Sinatra to license his name and likeness. She styles herself as the "keeper of the Sinatra flame" and has, on more than one occasion, said: "I am Frank Sinatra".

Tina and her siblings — Nancy, 57, who recorded *Something Stupid* with her father, and Frank Jr, who was his father's conductor from the late 1980s until his most recent performance, in December 1994 — also own Reprise Records, which controls the rights to all Sinatra's recordings made between 1960 and 1988. These include such favourites as *Fly Me to the Moon* and *Strangers in the Night*.

Facing them is Mrs Sinatra, 70, who, if his embittered children are to be believed, holds Sinatra "hostage". She dismisses these accusations as "sheer nonsense". Indeed, there appears to be no *prima facie* evidence that Mr and Mrs Sinatra are anything but "very much in love".

Mrs Sinatra, who counts as a formidable ally her son from



Frank Jr was his father's conductor until 1994

a previous marriage, Robert Marx, has no official role in either Sheffield Enterprises or Reprise Records. Yet she is making a fortune from a contract her husband signed in 1993 with Capitol Records.

The agreement gives her royalties of 20 per cent on sales, regarded here as an exceptionally high figure, and her bank account has prospered from the success of the singer's recent double album *Duets*. These have sold about 3.7 million copies in America alone.

Mrs Sinatra has also begun to manage reissues of early Sinatra music, particularly from the 1940s, when he ruled the airwaves with the Tommy Dorsey Band. Although the singer's children do not have sole rights over any pre-1960 songs, they feel they have a moral claim.

Tensions boiled over earlier this year when the children threatened to sue Mrs Sinatra (and, by extension, their own father) over a record released to commemorate his 80th birthday. Called *Live in Concert*, and produced by Capitol Records, the album consisted of performances recorded since 1987, including such Sinatra staples as *My Way*, *New York, New York* and *My Heart Stood Still* — songs to which the children hold sole rights.

Legal action did not, in the end, ensue, but the threat left a bitter taste which is unlikely to

be erased. The conflict was exacerbated further by a bizarre wrangle over a "commemorative Frank Sinatra neck-tie". Mrs Sinatra, clearly more comfortable with the image of an elderly man, wanted the tie emblazoned with pictures of Sinatra as he is now. She chose a photograph herself, in which Sinatra, smiling, sports a dapper silver toupee.

Tina, it is said, exploded with rage when she learned of her rival's choice. In the resulting "neck-tie battle", Mrs Sinatra lost and the tie featured a raffish Sinatra from the 1960s.

Mrs Sinatra, however, can be said to have won the "neck-tie war". The tie bombed and was withdrawn from the shelves after painful sales. Inexplicably, Tina and her siblings are blaming Mrs Sinatra for the tie's failure.



Sinatra and his fourth wife Barbara at a gala celebrating his 80th birthday. He suffers from chronic heart trouble

Mother's plea ends nurse's jail fast

LUCILLE McLAUCHLAN, the nurse who was sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years in jail in Saudi Arabia, agreed to call off her hunger strike only after a despairing plea from her mother.

Ann McLauchlan sent her daughter a handwritten message, begging her not to endanger her life.

McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, 38, who faces the death penalty over the murder of Yvonne Gilford, a colleague, last October, are said to be "deeply depressed".

McLauchlan sent a message to her parents and her fiancé in Dundee telling them not to wait as she feared she would never leave Saudi Arabia. The 31-year-old nurse had refused all food within hours of being sentenced last week when she was not allowed to telephone home.

McLauchlan had told the prison authorities she would starve until she was allowed to call her parents. Although she is entitled under Saudi rules to a call once she has been sentenced, she still has not been allowed to make her call.



Tina and Nancy Sinatra claim that they and their brother should inherit the singer's \$200m fortune

Two face jail for crowbar attack on babysitter

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN EVENING'S babysitting ended in terror for a 20-year-old woman after two attackers ricked their way into her home.

Patricia Harrison-Foody, a beautician, was caring for a friend's daughter when she heard a knock at the front door. She opened it to find a shoeless woman pleading for help. Suddenly, the woman forced her way in, closely followed by a man who had been in the shadows.

Her friend's five-year-old daughter screamed in terror as Miss Harrison-Foody fought the two crowbar-wielding attackers. Southwark Crown Court was told.

She was held face down by one as the other struck her repeatedly and slashed her with broken glass. After stealing her clothes, jewellery and other possessions, they said that she would be shot if she went to the police.

She ignored the threat only to be subjected to a campaign of fear by the pair, the court was told. In the dock were Tracy Martin, 21, a mother of one, and Omar Khodja, 23, who variously admitted causing actual bodily harm, theft and three counts of intimidation. A not guilty plea to robbery was accepted.

The noise of the attack woke the girl, who climbed out of

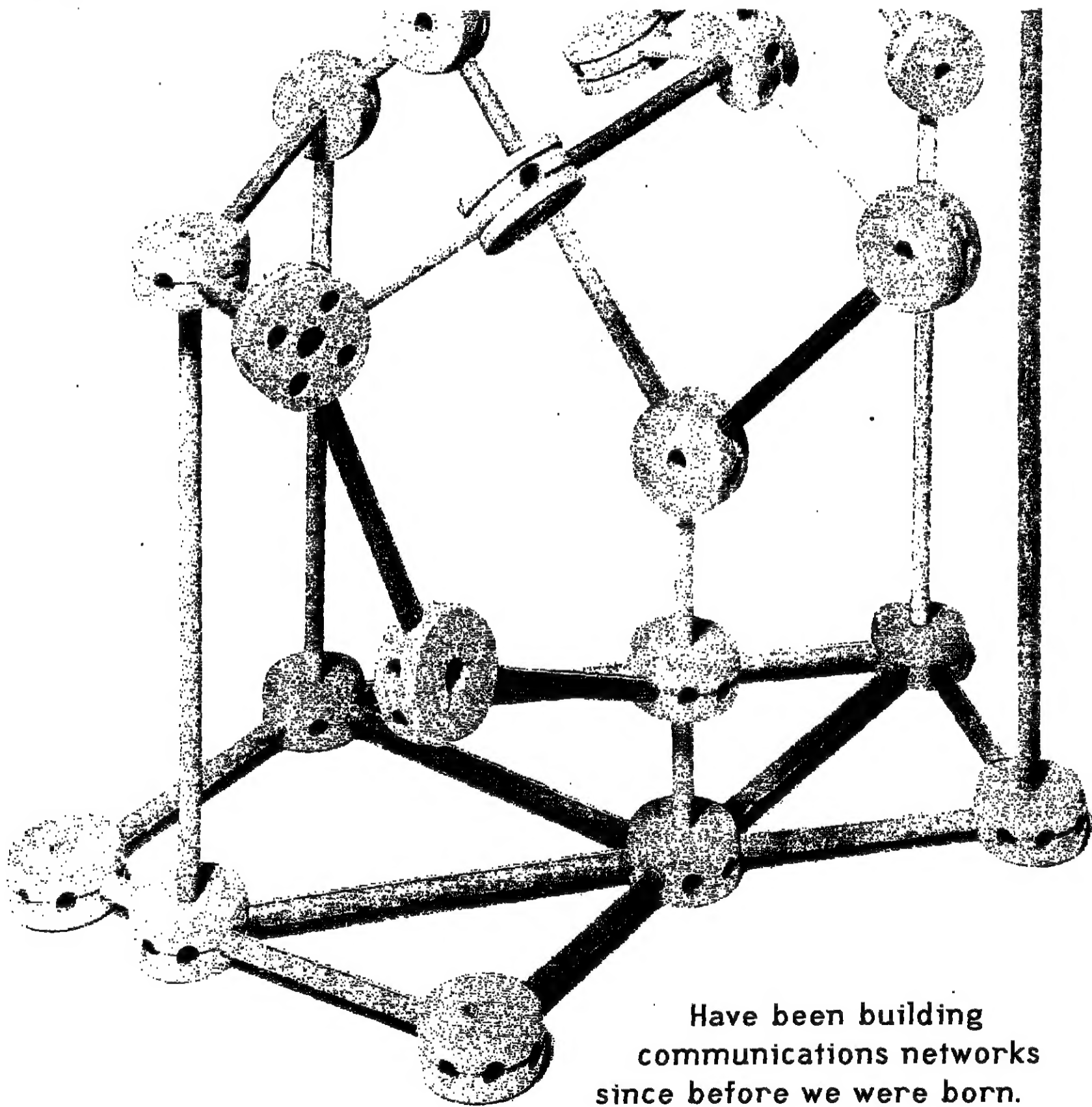
bed to find out what was going on. She saw the sobbing babysitter hit over the head with a glass vase and then slashed across the arms with one of the shards.

James Dennison, for the prosecution, said that Martin bit Miss Harrison-Foody on the arm and told her she now had Aids. Then, as Martin ransacked the bedroom, Khodja held his victim face down on the sofa "tapping the crowbar against her head". Miss Harrison-Foody later told police: "I really thought that I was going to be killed."

Despite the shooting threat, she rushed to the nearest callbox and dialled 999. Martin and Khodja were arrested at the home they shared in Thamesmead, southeast London, a few days later.

That night the babysitter received the first of three night-time telephone calls — one from Khodja, two from Martin — warning her not to go on with the case. Mr Dennison said Miss Harrison-Foody's ordeal left her unable to go to work at Harrods for two months, and she wanted to leave her home.

Mr Recorder Anthony Hilton, QC, remanded Martin and Khodja in custody until October 10 for pre-sentence reports. He said that a jail term was inevitable.



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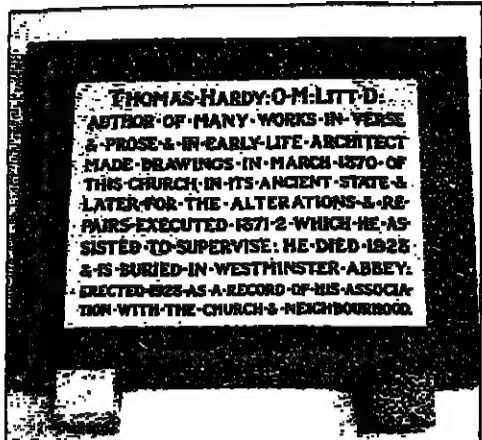
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Thieves rip altar from Hardy church



Emma Gifford, later Hardy's wife, met him at St Juliot's. A plaque records his visit



The parish where the novelist fell in love is the latest victim of a gang roaming the West Country, reports Simon de Bruxelles

A CORNISH church immortalised by Thomas Hardy has had its altar stolen. St Juliot's near Boscastle is the latest in a series of remote West Country churches to be targeted by thieves feeding a market for artefacts and furniture with a religious connection.

Besides the altar table and cloth, the thieves stole two wooden bishop's chairs, a 20th-century brass vase and two brass candlesticks, worth a total of £2,000. Like most churches in Cornwall, it had been left unlocked.

A Victorian safe that had been unused for decades was prised from the vestry wall with a pickaxe and abandoned when the thieves realised the church plate was stored elsewhere.

Hardy was sent to St Juliot's as a young draughtsman in 1870 to draw up plans for the restoration of the 15th-century church. He fell in love with the rector's sister-in-law, Emma Gifford, and they married four years later.

Olive Blackburn, a leading member of the Thomas Hardy Society, who recently visited Boscastle with 40 other enthusiasts, said: "I'm sure Hardy would have found it sickening." Hardy, who was born in 1840, arrived at St Juliot's at a critical period in his career as an author. Mrs

Blackburn said: "He felt like giving it all up because he wasn't getting anywhere. Then he met Emma Gifford. They had a lot in common. They were both artistic, particularly with their love for music. It was she that persuaded him to continue with his writing."

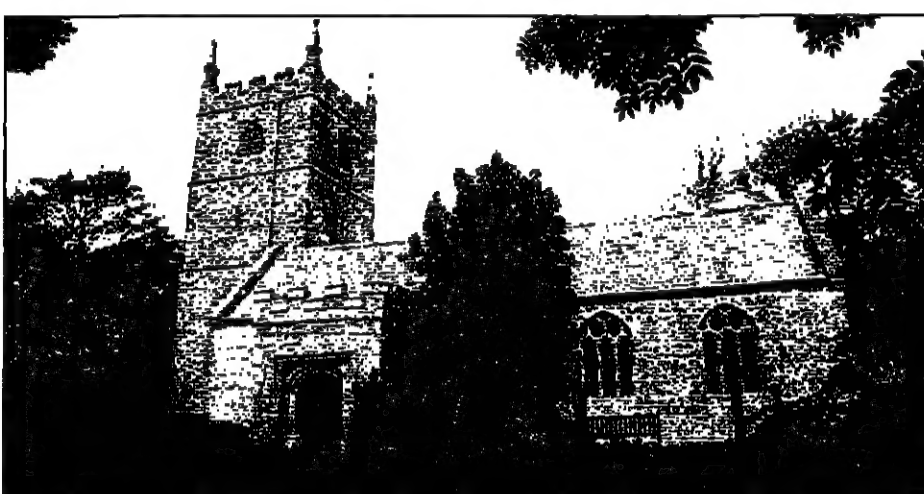
Miss Gifford's parents were against the match because Hardy was making little money. But she stuck by him and in 1874, the year that *Far from the Madding Crowd* was published, they married in London.

His period in Cornwall was described in his most autobiographical novel, *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, in which he wrote of the church: "The lonely edifice was black and bare, cutting up into the sky from the profile of the hill... of one substance with the ridge, rather than a structure raised thereon." He also recreated St Juliot's and its magical setting nearly 40 years later in his most poignant group of poems, the *Vesiges of an Old Flame*.

More than 20 Cornish churches have been raided over the past few months. Police believe the same culprits were responsible for many of the attacks. A spokesman for Devon and Cornwall



Philip Taylor, churchwarden at St Juliot's, inspecting damage by the thieves: "When I saw the destruction, I could almost have cried"



Artefacts worth £2,000 were taken from the unlocked 15th-century Cornish church

Constabulary said: "These crimes are clearly connected, but the culprit is changing his luck with whatever he finds. Sometimes it's just been food, in which case a lot of damage was done. At other times, as with St Juliot's, he took away a lot more."

Philip Taylor, St Juliot's churchwarden, said he was devastated when he discovered the break-in on Friday afternoon. "I'm extremely fond of the church. When I came into the church and saw the destruction and damage that had been caused, I could almost have cried. It's the

worst thing to have happened to the church in 600 years." Jeremy Dowling, spokesman for Truro Diocese, said: "In this country, we do not want to lock our churches. They are meant to be open for those people who need a moment of prayer or quiet contemplation. But the guidelines are quite strict. St Juliot's is insured, but we recommend that all valuables are removed when there is no service."

Other recent targets include St Sidwell's, Launceston, which was broken into last week by thieves who caused several hundred pounds of

damage and stole several items. At St Ladock, Looe, £100 damage was caused when the collection box was forced open. Thieves caused £1,500 damage at St Gulval's, Penzance, on Thursday when they smashed through the main stained-glass window, yet found nothing more to steal than a packet of biscuits. The Rev Alan Toy said: "When the church is damaged or violated in this way, people feel a personal violation, just as though it was their own home that was burgled."

Leading article, page 19

Vandalism and theft cost insurer £5 million a year

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE latest figures on church theft reveal that the days when churches were considered sacrosanct, even by criminals, are long gone.

Thieves and other attacks on churches have risen by more than 50 per cent in the past eight years, and are still increasing. Arson, theft and vandalism on Church of England buildings alone costs the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, which covers most of them, £5 million a year.

On average there are 17 attacks a day on churches. Arson accounts for nearly half the insurance costs, although vandalism and theft represent 99 per cent of the attacks.

Brian King, of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, said that the true cost was far higher than the cost to insurers. "Most church valuables

are insured for their replacement and not their antique value," he said.

"If a silver Jacobean chalice is stolen, we replace it only with a modern chalice. The loss to our heritage is the real hidden cost of this. Most churches would not be able to afford the cost of insuring something for its antique value."

Churches are now introducing schemes along the lines of neighbourhood watch with the co-operation of the local police. Churches in the Liverpool, Coventry and Bath and Wells dioceses are protected by church watch schemes. Closed-circuit television and infra-red burglar protection have been installed in some churches and, increasingly, valuable goods are locked away and replicas put on display.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Only half of new tax forms returned

Only about half of the eight million people who have to fill in tax returns will have met today's 5pm deadline for returning the new self-assessment forms. By last Friday evening, 3.9 million had returned the forms, which were despatched in the spring. An Inland Revenue spokeswoman said: "We have had the response so far that we expected."

If taxpayers mark the envelope "delivered by hand" and push it through a tax office letterbox overnight, the return will be treated as having arrived on time. Those who miss the deadline have until January 31 to return the forms before an automatic £100 penalty is imposed, followed by another £100 fine six months later for non-return.

Schoolgirl dies

A schoolgirl died after she hit her head in a 20 ft fall from a conker tree. Jenna Ellis, 11, had climbed the horse chestnut tree with friends near her home in Liverpool. Last week Marc Abbott, 8, died after falling from a conker tree near his home in Wigan. An inquest into Jenna's death is to be opened today.

Bank reprieve

Residents have won a reprieve for the only bank left in Britain's smallest town. Barclays agreed to put off closure of its branch at Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, after 30 protesters, including the mayor, staged a demonstration in Cardiff over the cost-cutting move. The town has fewer than 700 residents.

Fresh start

Captain Valentine Strasser, 32, military dictator of Sierra Leone for four years after a coup in 1992, started his first day of studies at Warwick University. Officials said that protests at his human rights record had died down and that students and lecturers had accepted his presence. Captain Strasser is studying law.

Missing bricks

Security on the Marquess of Tavistock's Woburn estate is to be increased after thieves demolished an isolated farm house. The 10,000 bricks which comprised the front wall of the deserted 1850 cottage are estimated to be worth £50,000 and may have been stolen to order. Copper piping was also removed.

Aspirin a day

More than 3,000 strokes and heart attacks a year could be prevented or postponed if those at risk took an aspirin a day, according to a survey marking the start of Stroke Week. The survey, by the Stroke Association, found that 15 per cent of stroke patients who knew they had high blood pressure were not taking drugs.

£190,000 in bag

An auction of more than 350 unwanted items from Fasque, the ancestral home in north-east Scotland of William Gladstone, raised £190,000. A pair of 19th-century leather armchairs fetched £6,000. The proceeds will be used to renovate the house, now owned by the Liberal statesman's great-grandson.

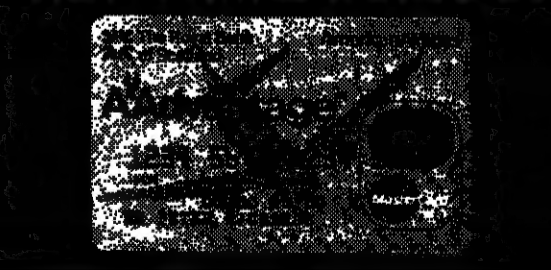
Tram injuries

Two people were taken to hospital yesterday after a tram and a bus collided in Manchester city centre. The tram driver and a man of 30 suffered serious injuries in the crash on Balloon Street. "We don't know yet what happened or who was responsible," said a spokesman for the Metrolink tram service.

Stour unlocked

John Constable, a descendant of the painter, unveiled a plaque at the opening of a new lock on the Stour. The lock, at Great Cornard, Suffolk, was funded partly by the Millennium Commission. It will enable boats to go upstream through the heart of countryside made famous in the paintings of Constable.

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Men 'dictate pace of human evolution'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

MEN are the dominant sex as far as evolution is concerned, new research in Sweden has confirmed.

The random mutations behind evolution are more likely to occur to sperm than to eggs, because producing sperm involves many more cell divisions, each of which can introduce a mutation. It is those changes — mostly damaging, but occasionally beneficial — which act in conjunction with changes in the environment to allow species to evolve.

By the age of 30, the sperm cells from a man have undergone 400 rounds of cell division, while egg cells require only 24 divisions, regardless of

the age of the mother. As at each division the DNA in the genes has to be faithfully copied, there is clearly a much greater chance of errors in sperm than in eggs.

By analysing the mutation rate in birds, two scientists at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala have shown that males really are the source of more mutations.

There is a price to pay, Dr James Crow of the University of Wisconsin in Madison writes in *Nature Genetics*. Older fathers are more likely to have children with inherited diseases, which derive from accumulated errors in their fathers' sperm.

Broken homes encourage girls into early pregnancy

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN from divorced families are nearly twice as likely to become teenage mothers as those who grew up with both parents, according to research published yesterday. Men whose parents divorce are also more likely to have fathered a child by the age of 22.

The study, by Kathleen Kiernan of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics, shows that while parental divorce appears to have lasting and profound effects on people's emotional development and their ability to form lasting relationships, it has less of an impact on their economic and educational

achievements. The research found that 25 per cent of women with divorced parents had become teenage mothers, compared with 14 per cent of those whose parents stayed together. Twenty three per cent of men from the same background had fathered a child by the age of 22, compared with 13 per cent of those from stable family backgrounds.

Four out of ten men and women whose parents split up when they were children had seen their first marriage or cohabitation break down by the time they were 33, compared with three out of ten people whose parents had

stayed together. As many as 48 per cent of women and 19 per cent of men from disrupted families had begun their first live-in partnership during their teens compared with 29 per cent of women and 10 per cent of men brought up by both parents.

"The greater likelihood of starting a live-in relationship as a teenager or becoming a parent before the age of 21 may well be directly linked to parental separation during childhood... children of these unions carry a legacy of doubt and vulnerability about forming and maintaining long-term relationships," Dr Kiernan said.

Death and bubbly on the road to victory

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Second World War was no picnic for Derek Cooper. The British officer known as the Irish Pimpernel single-handedly liberated a Belgian town, gathered crucial intelligence on key battles and survived ambushes and accidents. Actually, some of it was a picnic. He also drank more bottles of champagne than he could remember.

Cooper's extraordinary war is revealed in a diary written while he and his regiment, the 2nd Household Cavalry, advanced across Europe after the D-Day landings in 1944.

Captain Cooper, who served first as a liaison officer, then as second-in-command of a sabre squadron, played a courageous and crucial reconnaissance role. He was one of

about five officers whose job was to keep in contact with neighbouring formations and to report information back to the regiment. While driving swiftly from one unit to another, he braved ambushes and firefights, once falling in his scout car through a bridge into a river. He was also forced to endure the French citizenry swamping him with kisses and champagne.

In his diary, now published as a book *Dangerous Liaison* (Michael Russell), he describes a party in a chateau at the end of the Ardennes battle when 50 bottles of champagne and nine of brandy were "disposed of" by 11 officers and 11 girls — with some help from the servants.

While desperately trying to relieve the British 1st Air



Cooper played crucial reconnaissance role

borne Division at Arnhem, Captain Cooper notes: "Rather good lunch of pork chops and onions taken from the huge supply dump we captured at Oss."

The diaries also contain many references to the darker

side of war. On September 11 he wrote: "There was one corpse in the middle of the road whose clothes had been blown off and everything had been run over a hundred times. I don't feel I can ever get used to these sights."

His personal relief of the town of Renix took place on September 3, 1944, when he set off to find his regiment after liaising with the American forces. He drove to Renix hoping to meet up with British soldiers but arrived to find he was the first Allied officer to reach the town. One hundred and fifty German troops had just left. "According to the inhabitants we had liberated the town."

The diary entry for July 24 records: "We had dinner at a small cafe — steak and new potatoes, Camembert cheese and cider. Best meal since

landing but Germans have drunk all the champagne."

The captain, who was brought up in Northern Ireland and is now aged 85, later won the Military Cross for his leadership and gallantry in the six-day Battle of Jaffa in Israel in 1948.

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Army officers 'sent flowers after gang rape'

Court told case against six men rests on whether student consented to group sex, Tim Jones reports

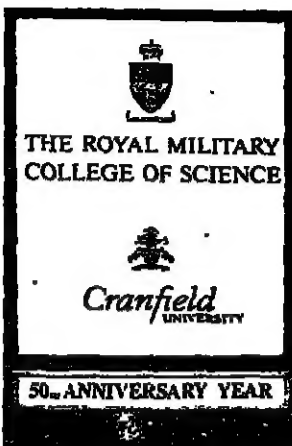
SIX naked Army officers stripped and raped a 23-year-old student after cavorting around her in a sauna, a court was told yesterday. She was taken to a bedroom where each took turns to have sex with her against her will.

Richard Latham, QC, for the prosecution, told a jury at Oxford Crown Court that the central issue of the case was whether the woman, who cannot be identified, consented to group sex.

He said that two days after the attack, at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, the accused had clubbed together to send her a bouquet of flowers with the message: "Sorry about the misunderstanding. Please accept apologies from all involved."

Mr Latham told the court: "On any view, what I am going to describe does no one in this case any credit. You may disapprove of the sexual morality of the complainant and each defendant. Consumption of too much alcohol had a lot to do with what happened. You may consider some actions of the complainant herself to have been foolhardy in the extreme." He told the jury, however: "This is not a court of morals. You must be objective and you must be dispassionate."

Before the court are Captain Philip Bates, 26, of Bordon, Hampshire; Lieutenant Darren Bartlett, 24, of Reading, Berkshire; Officer Cadet Andrew Stout, 20, of Whitcham, Gateshead; Officer Cadet Nicholas Oettinger, 20, of Preston, Lancashire; Lieutenant Matthew Tupling, 24, also of Bordon; and Captain Ian Barlow, 29, of Northallerton, north Yorkshire. All six officers deny raping the woman between



May 26 and May 29 last year.

The student, dressed in a white blouse and wearing glasses, told the court she had gone out with Mr Oettinger, Mr Bates and another officer, Lieutenant Rupert Whiting, to a nightclub in Swindon after meeting them through her work as a part-time barmaid.

Mr Latham said that the woman consented to sex with Mr Oettinger in Mr Bates's bedroom at the college, which is part of Cranfield University. Mr Whiting, who is not facing charges, also had intercourse with her.

Mr Latham said that on the afternoon of the gang rape, ten days later, the student and a friend went with a number of the officers to a village fête. She had returned to the college after being persuaded to have a sauna, had undressed in the corridor and entered the small room where she ended up with the six defendants, who were all naked. While she was in the sauna, Mr Latham said, her friend went into the shower where she had sex with Mr Whiting.

He said that Mr Bartlett tried to put his hands down her legs, and Mr Tupling

started to urinate on the towel she was wearing. "She responded in strong fashion, called him a bastard and ran into the outer room. The men thought it was funny."

Mr Oettinger, with whom she had had a consensual sexual relationship, had said he would take her to Mr Bates's room so that she could change her clothes. Once there she had started to put her clothes on when the other five, all naked, marched in. As Mr Bates had put a pornographic film on the video, Mr Bartlett had shouted: "Are you into group sex?"

Mr Latham added: "He [Mr Bartlett] pushed her on the bed and straddled her and when she protested told her to enjoy it. Her clothes were taken off... all of them tried or had intercourse with her, encouraged by the others."

As the soldiers systematically raped her, Mr Latham said, the complainant, confronted with six naked men had no option but to accede to their demands, although she fought off an attempt to handcuff her. Beginning her evidence, the student said of the incident in the sauna: "I was not particularly satisfied that the men had no clothes on but I was not completely distressed about the whole thing."

Mr Latham said that afterwards the student was sobbing and told the friend of the rape "within minutes" of them leaving the college. She had told her boyfriend about the incident later that day and disclosed her ordeal to her GP two days later, when she asked for the morning after pill. She had complained to police in November last year, six months later. He said that the soldiers were arrested on December 3.

The case continues.



Two of the defendants, Officer Cadets Andrew Stout and Nicholas Oettinger, outside Oxford Crown Court yesterday



The other accused, left to right: Captain Ian Barlow, Lieutenants Tupling and Bartlett, and Captain Philip Bates

Mother jailed for defying access order

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN went to jail yesterday rather than obey a court order that she must let her former partner see their five-year-old son.

The woman, who cannot be identified, was jailed for three months by Judge Downes at the High Court after she refused to obey a court order made in May giving the father limited access to the child. The woman admitted contempt but claimed from the witness box that she was trying to protect her son from his father's "sexual deviancy".

She said the father had made "suggestions of a sexual nature" to her son during an earlier visit. She said that she wanted the court to order that there be no contact at all between them.

Judge Downes said that her allegations had been rejected at an earlier court hearing and there was no justification for her stance. He recognised that a jail sentence could only harm the boy and his two half-sisters, who will be cared for by the woman's family in her absence, and had done everything he could to avoid it. But the Northampton woman, who is in her thirties, had "held a gun to the court's head" by her "persistent intransigence".

"I have tried to persuade her that there are better ways of dealing with this situation, but it's quite clear to me that she is setting her face against the court. The court is concerned about the interests of the boy and his right to see his father."

Paul Cavadino, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) said: "While courts are understandably concerned to ensure their orders are not flouted, this seems an excessively harsh reaction."

Courts, he added, "must recognise that the welfare of the child is paramount, and repeatedly jailing a mother is hardly likely to promote a child's welfare."

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And if your child goes into private school and is likely to go onward to university, you could easily be looking at three times that.

These shock findings come from 'What Price a Child?*' an investigative study into the cost of child-rearing by well-known consumer journalist and broadcaster Jan Walsh.

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Brown rules out easing public sector pay freeze

The Chancellor will not give nurses and teachers more than the 3 per cent inflation rise ministers have accepted themselves, reports Jill Sherman

GORDON BROWN made clear yesterday that he would not bow to the demands of nurses, teachers and other public sector workers in the next round of pay settlements. The Chancellor indicated that he would extend the freeze on the public sector wage bill for at least the next two years, and gave a warning that the clampdown on public spending could be extended to a third year.

Nurses, doctors and other public service workers were unlikely to get more than the 3 per cent inflation rise which Cabinet ministers have just decided to take themselves. Pay settlements "right across the board" would be guided by fairness and fairness, he said. "And in our spending decisions, fairness will be our test."

He came under attack from Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, the public sector union, who said: "Gordon, it must be possible to be credible and radical and still stand up to decent wages for people whose skills and efforts make us a civilised society."

Treasury officials disclosed that the spending round, when ministers bid for extra money, would be abandoned for a further year. Although the Chancellor has already agreed to keep to the Tories' spending

plans for two years, ministers had hoped to be able to influence spending priorities.

Yesterday's tough message came during Mr Brown's conference speech when he made clear that the Government would not make the same mistakes of Labour administrations in 1964 and 1974. "It is only by being prudent and disciplined now — building a platform for long-term stability — that we will be able to deliver the people's priorities for health and education in the years ahead."

Mr Brown used his speech to announce his ambition of achieving full employment in the next century. Aides explained that the initial aim was to secure an employment opportunity for all under the "New Deal" programme to put the 18 to 25-year-olds into work.

The Chancellor said his aim was for a Britain where no life was wasted by unemployment and, to achieve that, modernisation of the party had to be followed by modernisation of Britain.

It would take the form of modernisation of the economy, opening it up to more competition and dynamism, transforming education into life-long learning and making the welfare state a platform of



BRIGHTON

opportunity for all. He also suggested that the next Budget would include the introduction of a 10p tax and new tax credits for the low paid, put directly into wage packets.

Modernisation of the economy was not about image but about substance. "It starts not with pump-priming but with prudence, not dashes for growth but discipline, not free-for-all but responsibility; not rejection of change but a more flexible welfare state and labour market."

"This root-and-branch modernisation of our economy with a new welfare state is the modern way, the only way, the new Labour way to achieve what we have always sought and what I affirm as our goal today: employment opportunity for all in every part of Britain: full employment for the 21st century — the ambition of decent-minded people everywhere." Mr Brown's Iron

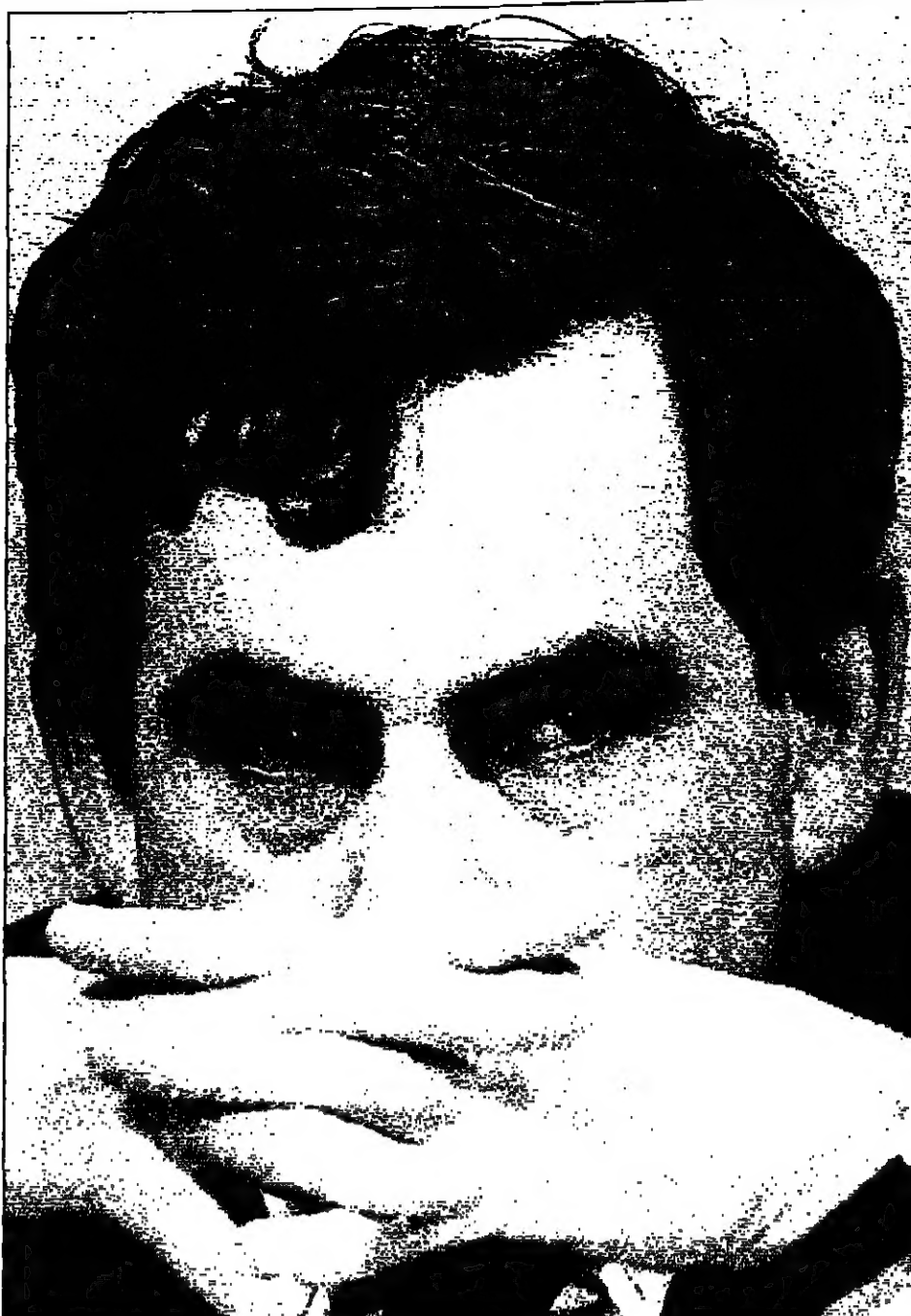
Chancellor message probably robbed him of the standing ovation like the one he received last year. But the Chancellor was optimistic that the economy could be back on track as early as next year, based on his deficit reduction plan for public borrowing, reforms to the Bank of England and the necessary interest rate rise.

The economic debate was more muted than previous years, with most delegates prepared to give their new Chancellor the benefit of the doubt. Ken Jackson of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union said that, by achieving economic stability, Labour would win the right to a second term in office.

"They will have earned the trust of the British electorate — the economist, the doctor, the banker, the shop worker, the teacher and the train driver," Mr Jackson said. The unions had championed partnerships between the public and private sectors before the Tories had.

There were calls for the Government to review the Private Finance Initiative and to ease spending restrictions in the public sector instead of keeping rigidly to the limits set by the Tories.

Additional reporting by Polly Newton



Mr Brown listening to speeches yesterday. His own was denied a standing ovation

Minimum pay must cover all ages, says Unison

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE largest union affiliated to the Labour Party told Tony Blair yesterday that it would be unthinkable for the Government to exempt people under 25 from the proposed statutory minimum wage.

The warning from Unison, the public services union, clearly indicates trade union anger at the Government's plan. Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, has instructed the Low Pay Commission, which is charged with recommending a minimum wage rate, to consider the exemption.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, the Unison general secretary, yesterday said that it would be unthinkable for a Labour Government to exclude so many people from the protection of a minimum wage. He told a Low Pay Unit fringe meeting that the move was hardly designed to increase Labour's vote among young people at the next general election.

There was no evidence that excluding people up to such a high age would protect or increase employment, he added. If there was to be a debate about the exclusion, it was his and the unions' job in dealing with such a proposal to "knock it back".

After the disclosure by The Times of Mrs Beckett's action, Mr Bickerstaffe and other union leaders contacted her department privately on the issue. He suggested yesterday that he had been assured that the Government was not yet fixed firmly to the proposal.

But union leaders and low pay campaigners believe that the option's inclusion in the specific terms of reference for the commission, rather than as a general point by ministers or their advisers, is likely to be fully taken into account by the commission when recommending a rate to the Prime Minister next spring.

Christopher Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods, suggested that businesses in some sectors might use such a level as an excuse for employing only workers under the age of 25.

New Labour message sounds reassuringly old

GORDON BROWN knows how to bridge old and new Labour. Peter Mandelson could but does not wish to. That was starkly shown yesterday by the contrasting fates of the two main architects of Blairism. Mr Brown was able to deliver a new Labour message on economic policy in language reassuring to old Labour, while Mr Mandelson's attempt to win the support of the party's ordinary members for election to the national executive committee failed.

The defeat of Mr Mandelson by Ken Livingstone, the epitome of the old Labour Left in London, is mainly of symbolic importance, though nonetheless striking and headline-catching for all that. It will not affect the Minister without

Portfolio's position within the Government, or the high respect which Tony Blair has for him and his strategic insights. Indeed, Mr Blair may feel that Mr Mandelson took an unnecessary quixotic gamble given that the NEC post carries no power and will disappear under the "Partnership in Power" changes for reforming the party's structure approved yesterday. Mr Mandelson is still likely to enter the Cabinet at the first reshuffle.

Nevertheless, yesterday's vote is a serious setback for Mr Mandelson's attempt to "break free" from Mr Blair. It is misleading to see the result as merely a rebuff for new Labour. But it is odd, as well as cruel, that the single politician most responsible for the ten year strategy

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

leading up to the victory being celebrated in Brighton has been so publicly rejected. Some of the private glee of his colleagues last night was hypocritical. Many owe their current prominence to him.

But personal factors obviously played a part — notably Mr Mandelson's role as a highly partisan fixer, whether fighting Tories or internal party opponents. This is not an appealing public image. He is himself partly responsible by appearing to cultivate his "Prince of Darkness" reputation, and Mr Blair has not allowed his close

adviser to develop his own political base. Mr Mandelson is now more than ever tied to Mr Blair. He can win elections for other people but not for himself.

By contrast, Mr Brown has always had his own role and style, distinct from his leader. While Mr Blair has presented his approach in consciously "new" terms, Mr Brown has sought to appeal to old Labour as well, particularly in his annual conference speeches. He has tried to show that fiscal austerity and public spending discipline are compatible with "Labour's enduring values... great ideas". He depicted himself yesterday as a successor to Keir Hardie and Aneurin Bevan.

His most striking pledge yesterday was to reaffirm the aims of the 1945 Government for "high and sustainable levels of growth and employment... full employment for the 21st century".

But this did not mean a return to the Keynesian goals and policies of the thirty years after 1945. He specifically argued that, "just as you cannot spend your way out of recession, you cannot, in a global economy, simply spend your way through a recovery either."

Mr Brown has in effect redefined full employment — as an objective not of macro-economic but rather of micro-economic policy. The aim now is to provide employment opportunities for all who want them via actions to help the young unemployed, the long-term jobless,

lone parents and the disabled looking for work. Instead, of boosting demand to meet a target level of low unemployment, we now have a supply-side strategy for "creating opportunities for work". But that will depend on the far-reaching reform of tax and benefits and the welfare system now under way in Whitehall, which will be a central theme of Mr Blair's speech this afternoon.

The Chancellor's speech yesterday was low key, and seldom excited the conference. There is still an air of unreality, of not fully adjusting to Labour being in government rather than in opposition.

PETER RIDDELL

Activists back reforms that will end secret policy deals

By Jill Sherman
AND JAMES LANDALE

TONY BLAIR's plans for sweeping reforms of Labour's policymaking structures won overwhelming backing from conference delegates, despite strong criticism from those wanting to defer the decision for another year.

The proposals will give the party conference less influence over policy and allow Mr Blair more control over the National Executive Committee, the party's ruling body, although grassroots members will have a bigger input.

Delegates backed the main reforms but trade unions were bought off by a pledge that they would retain a 50 per cent share of the vote at conference.

Nevertheless, about 50 constituency parties supported motions calling on the leadership to defer the proposals for a year until they had been properly thought through.

Delegates accused Mr Blair of railroading through the reforms without adequate consultation. They were concerned that the changes would turn the conference into a rubber-stamping event with no opportunity for real debate. But in a series of card votes, the leadership comfortably fought off challenges.

Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, claimed that the only way that Labour could banish divisions by radical reforms of party structures. Opening the debate into *Partnership in Power* (the

document setting out the reform plans), he said: "After every election, after every single term, the divisions in one form or another have opened up between party and Government and we have lost. We must never let that happen again."

Under the plans there will be a three-year rolling policy programme guided by a revamped National Policy Forum, which will include more ordinary members. The procedure will mark the end of horse-trading in smoke-filled rooms on the eve of party conferences.

Mr Sawyer reassured critics that the policy forum would be extended to include an "extensive" membership from the

rank and file to outnumber the Government's members by 30 to one. "The goal of *Partnership in Power* is to create ways of working that promote partnership and not hinder it, that build our party up rather than weigh it down, that engages ordinary members rather than mystifying them."

Karen Turnbull, of the public services union Unison, emphasised that the changes preserved the union link rather than severed it. "These proposals signal very clearly that trade unions are here to stay," she said.

But Ann Black, from Oxford East, was cheered when she urged that the reforms be deferred for a year to allow more time for debate. Caution-

ing delegates against rushing into change for change's sake, she said: "It is not disloyal to have different views and express them constructively. It is our duty."

Maria Iacovou, from Islington North, backed the call for delay, telling delegates: "We haven't had enough time. Let's make haste slowly. The party should consult widely and develop structures that all members could have a stake in."

Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East, also called for the reform plans to be deferred. He said he did not want the rights of conference "disappearing into a bureaucracy where we see people again and again dominated by party apparatchiks in London".

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 'ORDINARY' MEMBERS

By James Landale

THE *Partnership in Power* reforms make two key changes to the way the party works: on policymaking and on membership of the National Executive Committee.

Tony Blair believes the moves will involve more ordinary party members. Opponents say the changes are designed to block rebel activists causing a row at the new "rally-style" conferences and to prevent leftwingers being elected to the NEC.

Policy: the conference will theoretically remain the party's sovereign policymaking

body. Local Labour parties will no longer be able to initiate policy through composite motions and resolutions put to party conference.

Instead, constituency parties, local policy forums, and trade unions will put policy ideas to a new national policy forum, a 175-strong elected body with representatives from across the party.

In practice, the policy discussions will be driven by a powerful steering committee, known as the joint policy committee, headed by the party leader, with equal numbers of ministers and NEC members. The commit-

tee will then put the policy documents to conference. NEC party activists will no longer be able to vote for MPs to represent them on the NEC. Instead, party members will elect six activists, with three MPs elected by colleagues in Westminster and three ministers appointed by Tony Blair.

Although the "women's section" will be scrapped, compensatory new quotas for women have been added. Under the new system, left-wing MPs are unlikely to win seats because they are less popular among the new Blairite MPs.

Prescott wallows in triumphalism

By Nicholas Watt
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT yesterday whipped up Labour's victorious mood for the conference with a rousing speech that reminded activists of their landslide win on May 1.

Laughter and clapping broke out around the conference hall as the Deputy Prime Minister rounded on the Tories, taunted the Liberal Democrats and even dared to mock Tony Blair.

A huge smile broke out across the Prime Minister's

face, as he sat a few feet away on the platform, when Mr Prescott said: "Tony reminds us we that we can't be complacent, we can't have any triumphalism. Oh sod it, yes we can. Yes we will. For a few minutes let us enjoy that victory, wallow in that victory." He then turned and said: "Sorry Tony."

Mr Prescott gleefully listed the names of Tory MPs who lost their seats. To cheers, hisses and boos, he said: "We watched the Tories tumble one by one. William Waldegrave, Edwina Currie

and David Mellor. We couldn't bring ourselves to go to bed, could we?"

Mr Prescott then turned to the result in Enfield Southgate. "I know you should kick a man when he is down. But what a great moment it was when Michael Portillo... Clapping drowned out the rest of his sentence. Mr Prescott reeled off the number of Labour MPs — 471 — as he said that Labour had "smashed all the records". However, he mistook the number of MPs — Labour won 418 seats.



Prescott said Labour "smashed all records"

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How Mandelson underestimated his unpopularity

PETER MANDELSON, who is acknowledged even by his enemies as the shrewdest political strategist of his generation, gambled on the NEC election in a doomed attempt to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather.

The Minister without Portfolio was also trying to secure a power base in the party ahead of a widely expected promotion to the Cabinet. For once the master tactician got it badly wrong.

Mr Mandelson has often been compared with Herbert Morrison. There are as well political resemblances between grandson and grandfather. Mr Morrison, an Attlee minister, was for 20 years one of the most important figures in the Labour Party.

Mr Morrison was a key figure behind the 1951 Festival of Britain though its South Bank Arts complex was cheaper than the Millennium Dome that Mr Mandelson is masterminding.

Mr Morrison, like his grandson, was never trusted by his parliamentary colleagues. His last years were unhappy. The trade unions, which have never warmed to Mr Mandelson, turned against him.

But worse was to come. He lost his coveted place on Labour's National Executive Committee. There was a bitter irony in Mr Mandelson's fate yesterday. It was the last time ministers will stand for election to the NEC. Next year they will be appointed.

It has meant that Mr Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, has been denied his only chance to secure the legitimacy he craved — an endorsement from the grassroots — for the extraordinary power he wields in the Government.

Mr Mandelson knew he has enemies in the parliamentary party. The left wing resented his carefully cultivated image as an eminence grise. They blamed him for the sanitisation of the party conference, which was once a hotbed of dissent and debate.

But he judged, incorrectly, that with Labour at a high point in its fortunes the mo-

Andrew Pierce
reports on
the minister
who decided
to gamble...
and lost

ment had finally arrived to risk running for a party position by exploiting his role as architect of Labour's stunning election.

He had a powerful friend at court. Tony Blair endorsed the candidacy of his closest political friend and most trusted adviser. Mr Blair had another reason. A defeat for Mr Mandelson would be seen as a setback to his own authority.

His NEC campaign began in August when the Prime Minister was out of the country. He let it be known that he had been left to "mind the

shop" with John Prescott. He was everywhere. He indicated that the Royal Yacht Britannia would be saved. At the weekend it was confirmed that it was being scrapped.

Mr Mandelson disclosed that the security forces were investigating Chris Patten, the former Governor of Hong Kong. They have yet to interview Mr Patten. He became embroiled in an on-air row with a BBC radio presenter over alleged anti-Labour bias. He dominated the headlines.

It was all about raising his profile to secure name recognition on the NEC ballot slips which would be going out the following month. John Prescott helped when he named a crab after Mr Mandelson.

At first it seemed the strategy had paid off. Even as late as the weekend, aides of the Prime Minister indicated that Mr Mandelson was home and dry. But a fatal mistake had been made. Mr Mandelson had underestimated the depth of his unpopularity.

Most MPs and delegates in Brighton assumed he had won. Few admitted to voting for him or knowing anyone who had. Others declared that they had not bothered to vote in the past but had done so this time to try to stop Mr Mandelson.

The result was a serious blow to his reputation and ego. But there was another bitter twist. Mr Mandelson, who cares more than any other MP about Tony Blair's image, damaged it on the eve of the Prime Minister's victory conference speech.

If he had secured a seat on the NEC he might have succeeded where his grandfather failed, and gone on to become party leader.

But now it seems that Clare Short, one of his old sparring partners, may finally achieve her wish. Ms Short bemoaned the presence of "dark forces", spin doctors who operated in the shadows. A wounded Mr Mandelson might now take her advice and return to the shadows from which he emerged this summer.

Peter Stothard, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Ken Livingstone in the auditorium yesterday. Later he had cause to celebrate after winning a seat on the NEC

Media baffled by the great spin-doctor's vanishing act

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

IF LABOUR'S all-knowing, all-seeing one had any inkling of his fate before the National Executive Committee election results were announced yesterday, he didn't say so. In fact, Peter Mandelson was not saying anything. The Minister without Portfolio was also without voice, the sultan of spin was not spinning.

For once everybody wanted to see him, but he didn't want to see everybody. It had been a different story on Sunday night when he gyrated conspicuously across the dance floor at the Young Labour bash. But in the morning he was nowhere to be seen.

Ken Livingstone, who had been billed as Mr Mandelson's chief rival, had accused him of using his high profile to campaign for the job with Labour activists. He said the Minister had enjoyed the equivalent of £10 million worth of free advertising.

Yesterday, however, with the polls closed and the result of

the vote deemed to be too close to call Mr Mandelson was conspicuous by his absence.

TV crews and photographers ran around the stuffy conference centre in circles looking for pictures, hoping to persuade Mr Mandelson to predict the outcome of the vote. They wanted to know if he was anxious? After all wasn't it his dear wish to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, Herbert Morrison, who had been a member of the NEC?

A rumour would send them scurrying back to the Metropole Hotel only to be disappointed. A counter rumour had him making a surprise appearance at a fringe meeting. Quite false. He was nowhere in the auditorium when John Prescott made his quip about exchanging words with one or two crabs while out on the election campaign.

Finally at lunchtime the spin-doctor's own spin-doctor was run to ground in his hotel room. Mandelson, he said cheerfully, was in his hotel room too. "He has been working," he said, as if it was the most natural thing in the world for the so-called architect of the great election triumph to skulk all morning in his bedroom while everybody else whooped it up in the conference hall.

Mr Mandelson's man said that he expected his boss would come to watch the Chancellor's speech, as he always did. But he never showed. As the time for the announcement of the results approached there was quite a crowd in the lobby waiting for him finally to appear.

Eventually he did. But only as a flash in the distance as he scuttled out of a back door and zipped across to the conference hall.

He appeared in the auditorium and there were murmurs from the audience. He took a seat in the front row of a block of seats to the side of the stage next to his old friend Neil Kinnock. The two

laughed and joked as if Mr Mandelson had come along just to listen to some of Mr Kinnock's rugby stories.

Even when some cheeky party apparatchik allowed a close-up of Mr Mandelson, the great image-shaper himself, to be shown on the big screens he didn't allow his fixed grin to fade. Then the results were announced. He grinned or looked mildly at the screen. There were cheers for Livingstone's result. Much louder ones for his poorer showing.

Still he showed no disappointment. The rivalry between Mr Mandelson and Mr Livingstone over the NEC has a long history stretching back to 1985 when the architect of the 1997 victory, then a television producer, was elected by the conference to be its director of campaigns and communications. He succeeded on the second ballot in defeating one Nita Clarke. Mr Livingstone's then press officer. He had been supported then by Neil Kinnock.

Mr Kinnock also said that more officials should be provided at the Commission in Brussels. Asked by a councillor why applications to Brussels for funding took so long to be processed, he sympathised, blaming a lack of staff. He called for a "tiny amount more" to be spent on staff, because the 17,000 officials in Brussels "scarcely constitutes a sprawling bureaucracy". But he admitted that "there would be merry hell if any proposition were made to add to the 'great bureaucracy in Brussels'."

Britain will join EMU, predicts Kinnock

By NICHOLAS WATT
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR'S landslide general election victory had removed any doubt about whether Britain would join the single European currency, Neil Kinnock, the party's former leader, said yesterday.

Speaking at a fringe meeting at the Labour conference, Mr Kinnock said that British entry was now a question of when, not if. In language that contrasted with the caution that ministers have shown, Mr Kinnock, now European Commissioner for Transport, said: "I don't think anyone really has to ask 'if', not since May 1. I don't think there is any doubt that it is possible to overcome the impediments and then there will be entry into the single currency."

Mr Kinnock refused to be drawn on when Britain would sign up. He said that the only answer that could be given was "when the Government feels that it really can recommend to Parliament that that is the right thing in the interests of the United Kingdom".

The former Labour leader, who is being feted in Brighton, was much more confident than his former frontbench colleagues that Britain would join the currency. At the weekend, the Chancellor, and the Foreign Secretary countered suggestions that Britain could take an early decision to sign up. Amid speculation that Britain might join soon after the currency is launched in January 1999, Gordon Brown said it was unlikely that Britain would join in the first wave, adding: "There are formidable obstacles to EMU entry."

Mr Kinnock also said that more officials should be provided at the Commission in Brussels. Asked by a councillor why applications to Brussels for funding took so long to be processed, he sympathised, blaming a lack of staff. He called for a "tiny amount more" to be spent on staff, because the 17,000 officials in Brussels "scarcely constitutes a sprawling bureaucracy". But he admitted that "there would be merry hell if any proposition were made to add to the 'great bureaucracy in Brussels'."

Private healthcare users face NHS trust job ban

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PEOPLE who use only private healthcare are to be banned from positions on hospital trust boards and other NHS bodies, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, will announce today.

In a speech to the party conference, Mr Dobson will present plans to remove board members who do not use the NHS. Present office holders who have private health insurance will not have their appointments renewed.

Mr Dobson will tell delegates: "People who don't use the health service won't be running it from now on."

A Labour source said the

rule that requires applicants to demonstrate "a commitment to the NHS" would be interpreted more rigorously. "If you are a board member or chair of a trust who personally doesn't use the health service, then you are not going to be demonstrating your commitment to the health service."

The ban will not extend to anyone who has ever used private healthcare, only to those who now rely solely on private health insurance. It is not expected to apply to those who use the NHS but whose spouses or children do not.

It is not known how many people will be affected by the

change. The Government will continue to insist that trust board members live locally.

Mr Dobson will also use his speech today to emphasise the Government's commitment to NHS staff, repeating his promise to push for tougher sentences against those convicted of assault on them. He will also promise to tackle racist abuse of health service staff.

He will address claims by the Liberal Democrats and others that Labour is not fulfilling pre-election promises to invest in the NHS, insisting that the Government will spend an extra £12 billion on health services next year.

That is £3 million extra every single day.... That is double what the Liberal Democrats promised in their manifesto," he will say.

Mr Dobson will announce details of what is claimed to be the biggest consultation exercise in the history of the NHS, involving the scrutiny of service provision for six million people in 42 pilot projects around the country.

He will promise an end by next April to the "two tier" system that has allowed some GP fundholders' patients to jump hospital treatment queues.

TODAY'S AGENDA

MORNING: Mo Mowlam on Northern Ireland, Paula Green on Labour's MEPs and Frank Dobson on health.

AFTERNOON: Tony Blair delivers the leader's speech at 2.30pm. THE FRINGE: Chris Smith on the new creative economy (Old Ship Hotel, 5.45pm); Tony Banks and Trevor Brooking on "Sport for All" (Grand Hotel, 6pm); Tribune Rally with Gordon Brown, Robin Cook and Tony Banks (Com Exchange, 7pm).

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Dobson: NHS to be run by those who use it

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Indian barbers help to trim births

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN PEDDA AMBERPET
VILLAGE,
SOUTHERN INDIA

TENS of thousands of village barbers in southern India are to become frontline workers in an attempt to curb the country's soaring population, which will reach one billion in three or four years and overtake that of China soon afterwards.

Andhra Pradesh state is aiming to use barbers to persuade men to drop their prejudice against condoms. It is a revolutionary idea for India, which is starting to take population policy more seriously after decades of virtually ignoring it.

Condoms, like all other forms of birth control, are free throughout India, but few men use them despite increasing awareness of Aids, which is becoming an epidemic that is likely to be worse than anything experienced in sub-Saharan Africa. Vasectomies are virtually non-existent because villagers are convinced the procedure will weaken them for work in the fields.

Female sterilisation accounts for three quarters of all contraception and a third of all Indian women of child-bearing age have been sterilised, probably the world's highest figure. But it is not enough: the population is rising by 16 million a year, equivalent to almost the entire population of Australia.

The Hyderabad-based Indian Institute of Health and Family Welfare believes that barbers can be trained to tell villagers how to use condoms. A training programme is getting under way to give basic instructions, and each barber — there are usually five or six in any village — will be given piles of government-issue condoms to hand out.

Taleban detains Euro aid chief in filming row

FROM TIM JOHNSTON IN KABUL

ARMED religious police of the Islamic Taleban yesterday held Emma Bonino, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, and 18 other people for more than three hours after pictures of women were taken in an Afghan hospital.

Signora Bonino said she had been frightened by the experience. "I was scared because they were fully armed and had Kalashnikovs pointed at us," she said after her release. The commissioner was arrested on a visit to a women's hospital.

Taleban accused journalists with her of taking photographs of women, an offence under the movement's regulations. She said that the experience had given her a taste of what Afghans go through every day. "This is an example of how people live here, in a situation of random terror."

Filippo di Robilant, spokesman for Signora Bonino, said that the journalists accompanying her were unaware of the

restrictions on filming, and stopped as soon as they were asked. "[Bonino] went upstairs to talk to the director [of the clinic]. Meanwhile, the press had entered the wards. No one had told them not to. They had been filming for ten minutes and when they were told to stop they packed up," he said.

All 19 were released after the television crews accompanying Signora Bonino agreed to hand over video cassettes. Haji Habibullah, a security official, said earlier that Signora Bonino and the others had been "arrested because they did not have any letters from the authorities and they were taking pictures of women."

"It is the policy of Taleban that no unrelated man may take pictures of women. They were brought in for this offence. The head of the hospital came to complain to us that they were taking pictures." Taleban banned all photographs of living beings, saying that they are un-Islamic, when it captured Kabul last September.

Signora Bonino's group was detained in the hot, dusty yard of a police station in central Kabul. Armed Taleban fighters guarding them laid out carpets in the shade of a tree, and one said that the detainees had been offered Western soft drinks to slake their thirst.

The release apparently came after the authorities consulted Mullah Muhammad Rabbani, acting head of the Taleban interim ruling council in Kabul. (Reuters)

□ Brussels: Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, said he deplored the detention of Signora Bonino, "especially as her mission was of a purely humanitarian nature". Signora Bonino had received apologies from the Afghan authorities. A commission statement said that over the past two years it had channelled £125 million of humanitarian aid into Afghanistan, becoming the world's most generous donor to the country. (Reuters)



Emma Bonino leaves detention in Kabul in a Red Cross car. The rifle symbol indicates no weapons are inside

Narrow victory for Singapore leader in defamation case

FROM CHRISTOPHER LYDGATE
IN SINGAPORE

A HIGH Court judge has awarded damages of more than \$8,000 against a veteran Singaporean opposition politician for defamation of Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister.

But the award was a tenth of what Mr Goh had asked for and Joshua "Ben" Jeyaretnam, the 71-year-old leader of the Workers' Party, was told to pay only 60 per cent of the legal costs. The judge said the Prime Minister's lawyers had overstated their case.

Judge S. Rajendran awarded the Prime Minister damages of \$8,100 for remarks made by Mr Jeyaretnam at an election rally in January, when the opposition figure told the crowd he had just heard about two police reports in which leaders of the ruling People's Action Party were accused of criminal conspiracy and lying. The reports had been filed by Mr Jeyaretnam's running mate, Tang Liang Hong. "The Prime Minister

is entitled to his reputation no less than the ordinary citizen," the judge wrote in his 142-page summing up.

"While there is an undeniable public interest in protecting freedom of speech as a means of exposing wrongdoing or abuse of office by public officials, there is an equal public interest in allowing the public officials to execute their duties unfettered by false aspersions." A solicitor from Allen Gladhill, the Prime Minister's law firm, said the judgment

vindicated Mr Goh. Mr Jeyaretnam commented: "It could have been worse." He said that he had not yet decided whether or not to appeal.

The case has generated controversy both locally and internationally because it strikes at the heart of one of Singapore's most sensitive political issues — whether the ruling party uses lawsuits to hobble the Opposition. Observers from Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists and various foreign em-

bassies attended the trial. While libel cases in Singapore are not unusual, the suits against Mr Jeyaretnam have attracted special attention because, if he is forced to declare bankruptcy, he will lose his seat in Parliament. Mr Jeyaretnam said that although he hoped to keep his seat, he was not sure how he would raise the money.

During the trial, the Prime Minister described Mr Jeyaretnam's announcement at the opposition rally as a "Molotov

cocktail" that caused Mr Goh tremendous political damage, because it led the audience to believe the PAP leaders had committed criminal offences. Under cross-examination, however, Mr Goh admitted that he himself had authorised the contents of the police reports to be leaked to the press.

For his part, Mr Jeyaretnam contended that the suits against him were a "purely political" effort to bankrupt him and drive him out of Parliament. His British lawyer, George Carman QC, waged a blistering cross-examination of the Prime Minister, in which he suggested that Singapore leaders only paid "lip service" to democracy in their efforts to "stifle the Opposition".

Mr Goh and ten fellow leaders of the ruling party brought eight cases of libel against Mr Jeyaretnam, and Mr Goh's was taken as a test which would determine the rulings in them all. There will now be damages hearings in the other suits.

Trial judge respected for fairness

SINGAPORE'S legal community were surprised when they learned that High Court Judge S. Rajendran would be presiding over one of the most politically sensitive trials Singapore has seen in years (Christopher Lydgate writes).

Some of Singapore's most senior judges have close links to the ruling party — hardly sur-

prising in a one-party political system. But Judge Rajendran is not one of them. Although he could hardly be called an anti-establishment figure, the 59-year-old judge has demonstrated his willingness to make controversial rulings, and along the way has forged a reputation as an eminently fair and reasonable jurist. "He's liked and respect-

ed," said Dr Myint Soe, one of the few lawyers willing to speak on the record about Mr Rajendran.

One lawyer who knew him before he became a judge, said: "Everything he told me he lived up to. When I heard he was to be the judge in the Jeyaretnam case, I thought that was the best chance Jeyaretnam had."

Reagan's memoirs snubbed first wife

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

RONALD REAGAN excluded his first wife, Jane Wyman, from the original draft of his memoirs, making no reference to his life with her, the book's editor has disclosed.

According to Michael Korda, who edited *An American Life*, which was published in 1990, the former American President had to be coaxed to restore his former wife to the account.

Writing in *The New Yorker* magazine, published yesterday, Korda recounts an early encounter with Mr Reagan at his retirement home in California. They were meeting to discuss the first draft of the autobiography and Korda was worried that "Reagan had refused even to mention his

first wife, Jane Wyman, in the book". The editor "feared that this hiatus might cause reviewers to question Reagan's willingness to face facts".

When he raised the question of omitting Ms Wyman, who is now 83, "Reagan's benign expression didn't change, but his eyes became a little frosty". The former President then said that "there was no point in going into all that stuff". In fact, he "hardly remembered a thing about his marriage to Jane... it was all water under the bridge".

Korda persisted, pointing out that since they had a daughter from the marriage, it "wasn't quite all water under the bridge". If Mr Reagan, now 89, left out of his book

something as well known as his first marriage, the reviewers "would conclude that he was leaving out things that were even more important".

"I never pay much attention to critics," Mr Reagan replied placidly, saying that the world was divided into two kinds of people: "Those who can, and those who criticise."

Korda's efforts, however, did bear some fruit. The next day, Mr Reagan said he had thought things over during the night and had concluded that it would be "all right" to mention his first marriage. Thus his ghost writer was able to insert four lines about Ms Wyman in the manuscript. "And that," as Korda writes, "was that."



Jane Wyman: "Water under the bridge"



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

'Empty chair' for Oklahoma bomb trial

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

WHEN jury selection began yesterday in the trial of Terry Nichols, allegedly the "silent partner" in America's worst act of terrorism, an empty chair stood between the jury box and the main table used by federal prosecutors.

His alleged accomplice in the Oklahoma bombing, Timothy McVeigh, was sentenced to death in the same Denver courtroom in June, a trial which the Nichols defence team studied with the utmost care.

As a result, his lawyers, led by Michael Tigar, argued strenuously for the concession to maintain an empty chair between the jury box and the prosecution team. They said the proximity of government lawyers fostered a subconscious bond between them and jurors during the McVeigh trial.

Mr Nichols, 42, is the second man charged in the conspiracy to cause the bombing, the devastating explosion in the American heartland two years ago that killed 168 adults and children.

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Russian mafia in Colombia drug link

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI
TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON
AND ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE Russian mafia has teamed up with Colombian drug traffickers operating cocaine smuggling routes through the Caribbean to Europe and the United States, according to American and European officials.

Officials say the Russian mafiosi — police like to call them "Redfellas" — have established a beachhead in Miami, from where many of their illegal activities are being organised.

The spreading tentacles of the Russian mafia were made apparent in February this year when federal agents swooped on a Miami strip club named Porky's where undercover agents say there was more than the usual adult entertainment on offer. Ludwig Fainberg, the club's owner, was the alleged mid-

Russian gangsters have established a criminal beachhead in Miami from which to organise their smuggling of cocaine in a lucrative alliance with the Colombian traffickers

dleman for an international drugs and arms smuggling conspiracy involving the sale of Colombian cocaine to Europe in return for Russian military equipment, including helicopters and even a diesel submarine. In a separate case, agents also arrested two Lithuanians in July after they allegedly tried to sell Russian shoulder-fired missiles for \$330,000 (£206,000) to undercover agents posing as Colombian drug dealers.

The investigation uncovered an alleged trafficking network that

shipped cocaine from South America to St Petersburg in Russia packed in cargoes of iced shrimp.

Officials say meetings between Colombian traffickers and Russian mobsters have also taken place in a number of Caribbean islands. The Washington Post reported yesterday that Russian ships have delivered guns in exchange for drugs in the Colombian port of Turbo.

Apart from drugs and gun-running, the Russian gangs are also suspected of involvement in money-laundering and highly sophisticated

bank and financial frauds. "They have got more money than God, and they are more ruthless than the '20s Prohibition gangsters," Kenneth Rijck, a Miami financial crimes consultant, said.

Russians, suspected of ties to organised crime groups have opened more than a dozen offshore banks around the Caribbean suspected of laundering drug money. With limited regulation, Antigua, St Maarten and Aruba have become havens for dirty money.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, organised Russian crime syndicates have formed relations with their criminal counterparts in 50 countries and operate some 200 groups worldwide. It is estimated that at least 24 Russian gangs operate across the US.

The US branch of the Russian mafia started in New York, where

they blended easily with a large émigré community. But in recent years they began moving south to Florida for its climate and business potential, including ties with Latin American drug traffickers.

A two-year US study published yesterday by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies records a panoply of criminal activity under the umbrella of Russian mafia groups. Drawing on access to the FBI and CIA, the report concluded Russian organised crime was expanding in Central and Western Europe, the US, Canada, Israel, South Africa as well as Latin America. The report cites the illicit transfer every month of \$1 billion from Russia to Cyprus.

They are engaged in every possible area of crime, including drug trafficking, extortion, large-scale car theft, international prostitution and

smuggling of aliens, bank fraud, tax fraud, metals smuggling, illegal arms dealing and contract murder.

Left unchecked, the report states, Russia is in danger of becoming a "criminal-syndicalist state" under the control of corrupt government bureaucrats, politicians, businessmen and criminals. This poses a threat to the security interests of the US "by fostering instability in a nuclear-armed major power".

Russian police have expressed their concern about a huge growth in the trafficking of illegal drugs over the past few years. Arkadi Kuznetsov, of the Interior Ministry, said there are plenty of people who think nothing of spending up to £2,000 in an evening at a nightclub.

"We used to think of Russia as a land of drink, not drugs." In Communist times, even cannabis was comparatively little known.

US tax service suspends revenue agents

BY BROWNEN MADDOX

THE Internal Revenue Service has suspended mid-level managers after accusations last week in front of a United States Senate committee that its agents harassed American taxpayers, particularly the poorest families.

The suspensions, disclosed yesterday by Newsweek, appear to fulfil the revenue service's pledge to the Senate that it would investigate vigorously the dozens of horror stories recounted last week, which triggered furious public protests across America.

Sparking from behind screens, their voices electronically disguised, revenue service agents told the Senate how their performance was measured solely on the number of seizures and fines they imposed, and how they found it easiest to meet their targets by chasing poor families and small businesses who were financially unsophisticated and could not afford legal advice. Taxpayers told the Senate how they were pursued relentlessly for taxes they did not owe or had tried to pay.

The hearings were particularly explosive because earlier investigations by a congressional commission and Congress's General Accounting Office failed to find evidence of widespread abuse of power. The disclosures have led a belief among many Americans that the tax authorities, as agents of the much mistrusted Government in Washington, are vindictive, unfair and sometimes politically motivated. Paula Jones, who has accused President Clinton of sexual harassment, has said that she has come under revenue service investigation.

Newsweek also reported that it had obtained a copy of a memorandum from the service's Arkansas-Oklahoma office setting out the rules for evaluating agents on the basis of taxes they collected. If confirmed, this could be in breach of agreed procedures. Dick Army, House majority leader, has promised to put forward legislation by the end of the year to curb abuses.

Repentant men go on the march for family gospel

FROM BROWNEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THEY sob as they hug each other, swear they love their families and God, and promise to be better fathers and husbands. Washington is bracing itself for the arrival on Saturday of the Promise Keepers, the controversial Christian men's movement which has swept the country in just seven years.

"We're not focusing on men's rights," says Paul Edwards, the Promise Keepers' vice-president. "We're looking at men's wrongs and how God can help us make them right."

Forget the male backlash against feminism: Promise Keepers' tone is abject. Members, mostly middle-aged, thickset and balding, beg forgiveness for breaking promises to their families, confessing everything from infidelity and wife-beating to failure to unload the dishwasher or read bedtime stories. The group admits only men, as it believes they are primarily responsible for family breakdown and that the traditional emphasis on "God the Father" has been eroded in modern religion.

In Washington, politicians are bemused by the notion that as many as half a million men will march on Capitol

Hill — but will demand reform only from themselves, not the nation's lawmakers. The Christian Coalition, the political face of the Religious Right, has been jolted at the emergence of a headline-grabbing rival.

Most criticism has come from Boulder, Colorado, where the group's founder, Bill McCartney, lives. Warren Hern, head of the Boulder Abortion Clinic, told The Washington Post that Promise Keepers was "a fascist movement" which gave "psychological protection" to those who shot at the clinic. "Coach McCartney wants political power. He's poison."

But in money terms Promise Keepers demands attention. In seven years it has acquired 360 staff; last year it had a revenue of \$96 million (£60 million) from donations at its 50,000-strong rallies.

It all began when Mr McCartney, 57, a former football coach, had a vision. Known as "Coach", he made his name when he took the Colorado Buffaloes, the state university team, to the No.1 spot in 1991, earning him the title of "Coach of the Year". He always claimed God was on his sideline.



Astronaut David Wolf holds a packet of fruit taken into space for Mir's crew, watched by Pavel Vinogradov, the space station's flight engineer. The American, who arrived on the US space shuttle Atlantis, is to replace Michael Foale, the British-

Mir crew reaps cosmic harvest

born astronaut, on Mir. Yesterday the two crews were busy loading supplies from the US craft onto the Russian orbiting outpost. Vladimir

Soloviyov, flight director, told a televised news conference from Mission Control at Korolyov, outside Moscow: "For now, everything's

ahead of schedule. We're very pleased."
 [D] Delhi: India yesterday for the first time used its own rocket to launch a major satellite, marking a turning point in the country's space programme. (Reuters, AP)

Browned-off driver sues over hair-dye sacking

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

A LORRY driver sacked for dyeing his hair is suing his employer of six years for unfair dismissal in what lawyers call a landmark test of human rights in Japan.

Yoshiaki Nishiura, 25, lost his job in July when he fol-

lowed a fashion popular with a growing number of young Japanese of both sexes and turned into a *chapatsu* — a person with dyed brown hair. He had apologised and returned his hair to its natural black before being fired.

His employer, Suguru Yamaga, 56, who runs a trucking company in Kirak-Kyushu,

western Japan, was horrified when Mr Nishiura turned up for work with the light-brown hair.

In common with most of corporate Japan, he believes that the *chapatsu* trend — blamed on America's influence — undermines company discipline, corrupts morale and implies a casual approach

to life. "We need drivers to maintain a professional appearance to make a good impression," he said.

Hisashi Ikeda, a journalist and social commentator, said: "Japanese firms expect all employees to look the same, and think the same. When you enter a company, you sign away your human rights."



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Chinese start to execute by lethal injection

FROM REUTERS
IN BEIJING

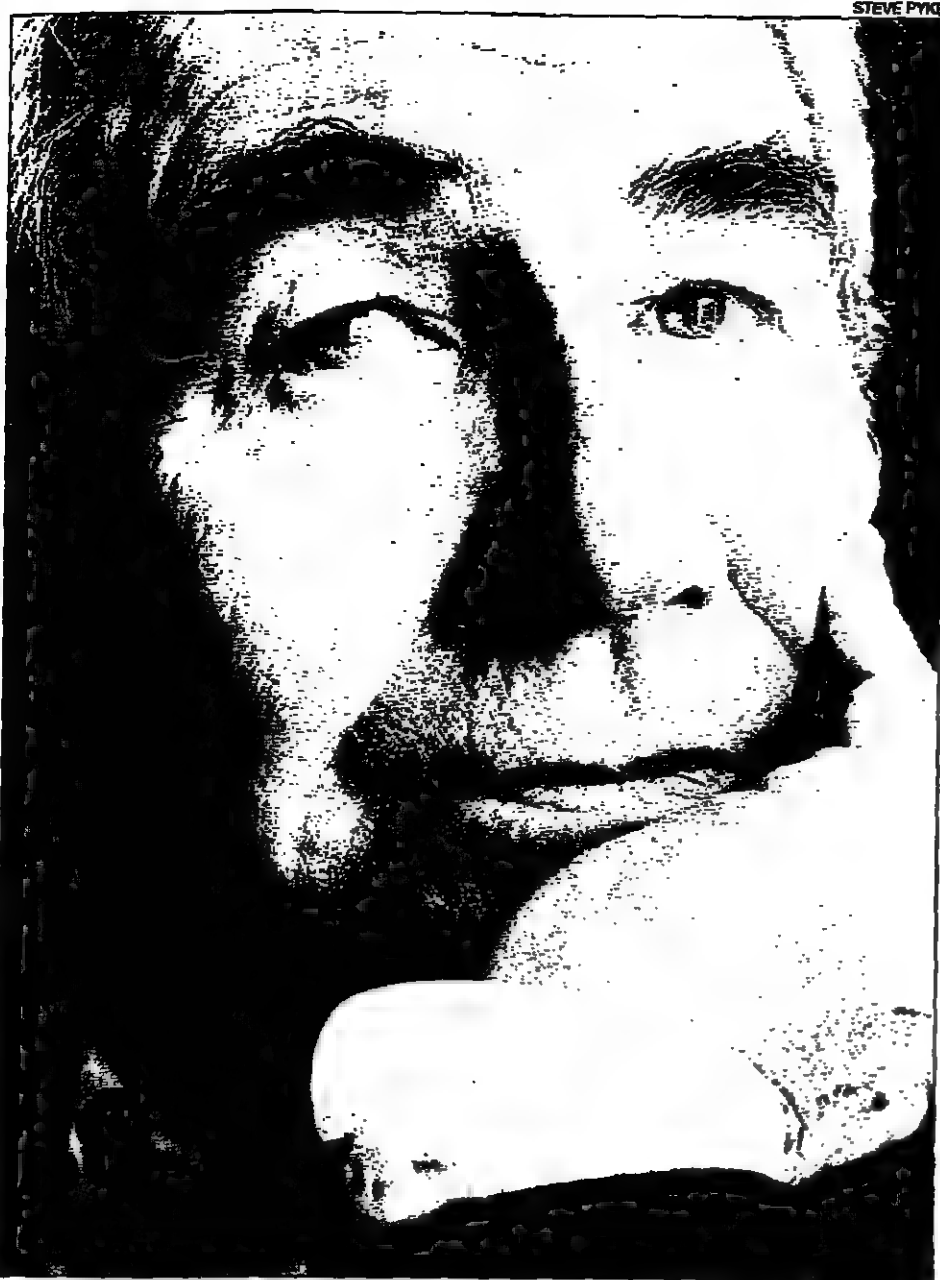
CHINA has secretly executed more than 20 convicts using lethal injection in experiments to find an alternative to the firing squad, a state newspaper has reported.

Officials were so satisfied with the results that China may stop using the bullet, the *Liaoning Daily Weekend*, available in Beijing yesterday, said.

Prisoners, relieved to be spared the firing squad, rolled up their sleeves for the injection and some even expressed gratitude, the paper said. Lethal injection was approved by a criminal law that took effect on January 1. China executed at least 4,367 people by firing squad last year, more than the total of executions for the rest of the world.

Lethal injection has been used 22 times since March under the administration of the Kunming Intermediate People's Court in the south-western province of Yunnan, the newspaper said. Yunnan is the centre of a flourishing illegal drugs trade and executes many traffickers.

The Yunnan experiments were judged so successful that the method is undergoing further study in Beijing by the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Health.



Baudrillard, *Liberation* columnist among those accused of obscure jargon

6 The most rapid route... is the straight line but, in the non-Euclidean space at the end of the century, a baleful curvature ineluctably diverts every trajectory 9

Assault on intellectual 'impostors' of France

Ben Macintyre reports from Paris on a Left Bank furore over claims by American and Belgian academics that French philosophers are talking tosh

MODERN French philosophy is pretentious, verbose and often utterly meaningless, according to an incendiary new book which has provoked fury among Paris intellectuals and prompted a bout of introspection that is intense even by French standards.

In a blistering denunciation of many notable and trendy thinkers, two prominent non-French scientists have come up with a simple but devastating critique: "We can demonstrate that if they seem unintelligible, this is for the good reason that they do not want to say anything."

Impostures Intellectuelles by Alan Sokal, an American physicist, and Jean Bricmont, takes on the exponents of structuralism, post-structuralism and post-modernism, and singles out such celebrated French writers as Régis Debray, the high-profile left-wing philosopher, psychoanalyst-mathematician Jacques Lacan, semiotician Julia Kristeva and Jean Baudrillard, the *Liberation* columnist who most often describes himself as a thinker.

The authors of the broadside claim that by mixing pseudo-science with convoluted language, sociological theory and obscurantism, French intellectuals have pioneered a form of "intellectual terrorism" - daunting, superficially erudite and often quite unintelligible.

"Deliberately obscure writing and the intellectual dishonesty that accompanies it is

poisoning a part of intellectual life," Messrs Sokal and Bricmont insist. They take particular issue with the misappropriation of scientific terms, and what they see as the tendency of modern French thinkers to lapse into "excess verbiage" and "wild imaginings".

Mr Sokal gained notoriety last year when he published a long, jargon-filled article in *Social Text*, an American university journal, and then announced it was "complete nonsense". To bolster their case the critics quote from their targets' circumlocutory

effusions. What, if anything, did Julia Kristeva mean when she wrote "The notion of constructibility, which implies the axiom of choice associated with all we have put together for the poetic language, explains the impossibility of establishing a contradiction in the space of the language of poetry," Mr Sokal, who teaches at New York University, asserts: "She has a vague idea of what she is talking about, but not much more."

M Baudrillard's bizarre and long-winded theories about "multiple refraction in hyper-space" come in for a similar

pastor: "In physics, the word space exists, as does hyper-space and refraction. But multiple refractions in hyper-space? ... It appears to be scientific, but in fact it is as pompous as it is meaningless," Mr Sokal says.

The suggestion that some of the greatest minds in France are talking total tosh has prompted a predictable patriotic riposte. "This is war," declared *Le Figaro*, while *Le Nouvel Observateur* magazine devoted several pages to the row beneath the headline: "Are our philosophers impostors?"

Mme. Kristeva muttered about "francophobia" and suggested the attack was part of a wider cultural battle. Pascal Bruckner, author and academic, defended his compatriots, saying that while the Anglo-Saxon intellectual approach is rooted in "facts and information", French thinking is based on "style". Nothing is straightforward in modern French thought. To quote M Baudrillard: "In the Euclidean space of history, the most rapid route from one point to another is the straight line but, in the non-Euclidean space at the end of the century, a baleful curvature ineluctably diverts every trajectory. Linked, no doubt, to the specificity of time (visible at the horizon of the end of the century like the Earth's horizon at the day's end) or to the subtle distortion of the field of gravity."



Debray: singled out for heavy criticism



Lacan: under attack from foreigners

German Greens attack work permit curbs on foreigners

FROM DEBORAH COLLICUTT IN FRANKFURT

THE German Green Party has warned the Government against blaming foreigners for the country's high unemployment rate and seeking ways to prevent them working here, as outlined in a new Labour Ministry paper.

The party accuses the Government of seeking a scapegoat for Germany's economic ills and adding weight to a widely held but naive view that foreigners take away jobs from unemployed Germans by undercutting wages and accepting intolerable working conditions.

"Germany has already had appalling experiences with this kind of theory," Marcelouise Beck, the Green Party's labour market spokeswoman, said in reference to the Nazis and their use of racist propaganda.

Included in the report which was drawn up by Norbert Blum, the Labour Minister, and leaked by the mass circula-

tion *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper, there are plans to tighten restrictions on work permits granted to non-European Union nationals and to impose heavy fines on companies or individuals caught illegally employing foreigners.

In addition to the four million foreigners who live in Germany, a nation of 82 million, an estimated 250,000 arrive in the country every year in search of work.

The new plans, which are due to be presented to MPs this week, will greatly affect fruit and vegetable harvests when farmers rely on Eastern Europeans to pick crops quickly and cheaply.

The most lucrative of these is the spring asparagus harvest. It is back-breaking work which must be completed swiftly before crops spoil, but brings a fortune for farmers at the end of a four-week asparagus eating, frenzy in homes and restaurants throughout

the country. Germany's powerful farming associations have frequently complained that long-term welfare recipients sent out to help in the fields are lazy and uncooperative and many landowners claim that, without foreign workers, they would be unable to remain competitive.

The Government claims that measures to curb the number of foreigners employed in Germany is necessary to bring down the 11 per cent jobless rate.

"We want to put a stop to this inflow with these measures," said Peter Ramsauer, a social policy expert for the conservative Bavarian Christian Social Union, adding that an economic upturn had had little effect on the labour market.

The fine for illegally employing foreigners could be increased from £35 to £175 for every worker, according to the new report.

Albright piles on pressure for peace

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE United States yesterday put pressure on Israel and the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table in an effort to defuse the growing tension in the Middle East caused by Hamas suicide bombings and Israel's plans for new building in Palestinian areas.

Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, met her Israeli counterpart, David Levy, in the morning and the two were scheduled to hold a three-way session with Abu Mazen, the Palestinian negotiator.

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators were expected to restart talks in the eight joint committees set up to deal with such questions as Palestinian prisoners, free transit between Gaza and the West Bank, the construction of a seaport in Gaza, and the opening of an airport there.

Both Israel and the Palestinians made goodwill gestures over the weekend. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, released \$17 million (£10.5 million) in frozen Palestinian funds and increased the number of Palestinians allowed into Israel, while Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, ordered a crackdown on Hamas Islamic militants.

Pushing for movement towards peace, Ms Albright, who visited the region this month, had breakfast yesterday with the foreign ministers of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain.

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Stephen



Gates: increase of \$400m every week

\$39bn Gates heads wealth league

By TUNUK VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

BILL GATES has overtaken the Sultan of Brunei as the richest person in the world, according to the latest list of the wealthy published here yesterday by *Forbes* magazine.

The 41-year-old chairman of Microsoft increased his net worth last year by \$400 million (£248 million) every week.

Surfing on the crest of a stock market wave, in which his company's stock has more than doubled in worth over the past two months, Mr Gates's net worth has soared from \$18.5 billion in 1996 to \$39.8 billion at the latest count.

This surge has pushed him past the Sultan of Brunei, whose wealth is computed at \$38 billion. The Sultan's fortune, however, was inherited. Mr Gates built his software empire from scratch.

The *Forbes* list — of the 400 wealthiest Americans — listed Warren Buffett, 67, as the second richest person in the country. He is referred to as "the world's most successful investor", and is worth \$21 billion.

The upper echelons of the list are dominated by software and computer barons. Others listed are Paul Allen, the co-founder of Microsoft, worth \$17 billion, at No 3; Lawrence Ellison, of Oracle Software, worth \$9.2 billion; and Gordon Moore, of Intel Corporation, worth \$8.8 billion.

Ted Turner, the media mogul, is in 28th place, but would plummet to 55th if he donates the \$1 billion which he promised recently to the United Nations.

The magazine predicted that Michael Dell, the Texas billionaire owner of Dell Computers, ranked 16th in the list, could be the "next Bill Gates". His net worth increased fivefold last year to \$5.5 billion.

Looters descend on Assisi to pilfer art pieces

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE two Franciscan friars killed in Friday's Umbria quake were buried at Assisi yesterday amid reports that pieces of damaged art works, including a great 13th-century fresco by Cimabue destroyed in the disaster, are being sold on the black market.

The Pope, who has expressed his "intense grief" over the tragedy, sent Cardinal Roger Etchegaray of France — a leading candidate for the papal succession — to preside over the funeral of Father Angelo Api, 48, and Borowec Zazislaw, a 24-year-old novice from Poland who had only been in Assisi for a few days.

The two friars were crushed by masonry when a second earthquake struck Assisi last Friday morning while they were examining damage in the Basilica of Saint Francis caused by the first earthquake during the night.

Two art surveyors employed by the office of the Umbria Superintendent of Fine Arts, Bruno Brunacci, 40, and Claudio Bugianella, 45, were also killed by rubble when the great vaulted ceiling collapsed. They were buried on Sunday, amid claims by their relatives that the authorities should not have allowed inspection teams inside the basilica while there was a serious risk of a second earthquake.

The Italian Government has set aside \$500 million (£312 million) for the relief effort in Umbria and Marche, and leading fashion designers such as Armani, Perre and Santo Versace have also contributed substantial sums.

Experts said it would be

some weeks before the true extent of the damage to the basilica was known. But the Franciscans hope to reopen the lower church, which contains the undamaged tomb of the saint, in time for celebrations of the feast day of St Francis on Saturday. About 30,000 pilgrims are expected, and police are planning intensive security measures.

Antonio Paolucci, the former Culture Minister who is overseeing the restoration, said repairs to the upper church, where works by Giotto and Cimabue were damaged, would take months.

Police said they were concerned that tourists were picking up rubble and fragments of ruined buildings as souvenirs. All the churches have now been shut, with armed guards placed on the doors and gates for fear of looting. Services are held in the open.

The police said thieves were attempting to profit from the tragedy, and the going rate for a yellow-and-blue fragment of the destroyed Cimabue fresco, *The Four Evangelists*, was said to be £200. "It is being sold off like bits of the Berlin Wall," the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper said.

Giorgio Bartolini, the Mayor of Assisi, said he had wanted to close the centre of the hilltop town to visitors, but businesses had objected. About 80 per cent of Assisi's revenue derives from tourism, and it is Italy's fourth most popular destination after Rome, Venice and Florence.

The 28 celebrated frescoes by Giotto on the *Life of St Francis* are intact, although they are covered in dust and



A quake victim waits in a tent city. The homeless complain the world is more concerned about frescoes than people

the extent of any damage will not be known until they are cleaned. Sixty square yards of frescoes in the nave have been destroyed. Some are thought to be by the young Giotto.

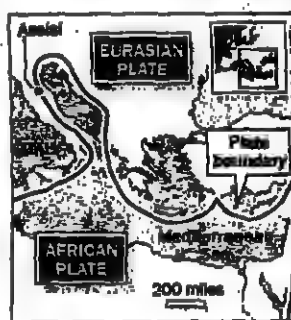
The authorities have stepped up security to guard retrieved fragments. Restorers, many of them volunteers, are using painstaking, labour-intensive techniques similar to those used after the Second

World War in historic cities such as Padua. "It is a labour of love," Signor Paolucci said. "They are saving tiny painted fragments. But the frescoes will never be the same again."

Seismologists said the damage would have been worse if the lower church had not absorbed the vibrations. About 80 per cent of the housing in Assisi was damaged, and 40 per cent of the

housing in surrounding areas has been evacuated. Thousands of local residents, many elderly, are continuing to spend the chilly nights in temporary shelters. The homeless bitterly complain that the world is more concerned about the Giotto and Cimabue frescoes than about homeless human beings.

Leading article, page 19



British crash victim had just arrived in Indonesia

FROM A SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT
IN JAKARTA

PETER WILSON, one of two Britons killed in the air crash in the Indonesian island of Sumatra last Friday, had arrived in the country only the day before and was on the plane because his intended flight had been cancelled, it emerged yesterday.

The remains of the second Briton in the crash, named by the British Embassy in Jakarta as Sally Horseman and

thought to have been in her thirties, have not been identified. No further information about her has been released.

It is not known what caused the crash 20 miles outside the north Sumatran city of Medan, but an unofficial transcript of the last conversation between the pilot and the Medan airport control tower released yesterday shows that they confused the words left and right in deciding which way the pilot should turn.

His sight of the runway was hindered by the choking smog

that has blanketed South-East Asia for weeks, but it is not known to what extent this contributed to the crash. The "black box" flight data recorders have still not been recovered.

Mr Wilson, 42, was a freelance consultant who had been employed by PT Ericsson Indonesia, the telecommunications company, to supervise a building project in north Sumatra, a company spokeswoman said yesterday. She said: "Pete was due to fly to Medan on the Thursday with

a colleague, but the flight was cancelled. He then rebooked. The other person, having heard how full the flight was, said he could wait until Monday, but Pete said that someone had to go because there was so much work to do."

He is survived by his wife, Linda, a daughter, 12, and a son, 7. Mrs Wilson lives at present in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates.

The British Embassy said: "We believe Sally Horseman is among the three unidentified Caucasian women who

are in the hospital in Medan. She was not buried in the mass grave this morning."

The woman's relatives were so distraught by her death that they were not allowing any personal details to be released. Thousands of people gathered at the cemetery outside Medan for the mass burial of the 48 Indonesians who remained unidentified from the crash. They were buried in a single grave with only male or female signs on the coffins. All 234 people on board the Airbus were killed. The haze and

smog cleared over much of Borneo and parts of Malaysia and Sumatra after it rained yesterday. But it remained thick in many areas. Caltex, a joint venture between Chevron and Texaco, the American oil companies, began yesterday to evacuate its employees from eastern Sumatra.

Fire kills 31

Santiago: At least 31 people, most of them children, were killed in a fire at a home for the mentally handicapped in the Colina suburb of the Chilean capital when a burning roof collapsed on residents' beds, officials said. Six residents were missing and three more were in hospital with severe injuries. (Reuters)

Unhappy union

Brussels: Nearly a third of all marriages in the 15 countries of the European Union will end in divorce, according to a study by Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, which analysed 1995 figures. (AFP)

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Stephen Fry

STEPHEN Fry, whose public face is internationally well known, reveals his private face in this Times/Dillons forum, on Tuesday October 7. He will be in conversation with Nicholas Wapshott. The discussion will cover his days at boarding school, the beatings he suffered, the love he felt, the misery he suffered, his time in prison and his subsequent highly successful career. The forum, which marks the publication of his autobiography, *Moab is my Washpot* (Hutchinson, £16.99) will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concessions £7.50), which includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. Subject to demand this event will be interpreted in sign language.

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Mostar's old Turkish bridge, which lasted from 1566 until it was destroyed by a Croat bombardment in 1993

Bridge salvage begins in Mostar

FROM TOM WALKER
IN MOSTAR

THE painstaking process of rebuilding Bosnia's most famous bridge began yesterday as Hungarian divers helped to retrieve a broken slab of arch from the key Neretva river in Mostar.

The town's old Turkish bridge, built in 1566, was blown up by Croat forces in November 1993 as they attempted to isolate a Muslim pocket on the Neretva's west bank.

Yesterday was billed as a milestone of ethnic reconciliation, but few Croats were on hand to watch Hungarian Nato troops manoeuvre a Heath Robinson-type barge beneath the bridge's foundations and the gaze of President Izetbegovic of Bosnia.

Almost four years ago the bridge was killed: this bridge with a soul," he said. "Since then we have dreamt of this day." The block of stone was



The makeshift bridge that now spans the Neretva

lifted by two cranes from the barge and placed on a podium, to applause from crowds on both banks. It is estimated that the Hungarian team will need at least six months to retrieve the reusable stone from the 30ft-deep river.

Mr Izetbegovic's language had calmed since his last speech in Mostar in July, when he said there were

"individuals among the Croats who have not only disgraced the Croatian peoples, but mankind too".

Little love is lost between the town's Muslim and Croat communities, and there was widespread surprise when Kresimir Zubak, the Croat representative on Bosnia's state presidency, turned up for the ceremony. At the

weekend, Slobodan Praljak, the Croat general who destroyed the bridge with grenade and tank fire, said he would do so again if necessary.

A senior UN official at the ceremony admitted the rebuilding was "more a symbol of division" likely to anger a west-bank Croat community obsessed with the notion that the West favours the Muslims. Revisionist theory circulating in the town even claims that rogue Muslim forces blew up the bridge.

The Unesco representative to Bosnia, Colin Kaiser, said there was still no definite offer to rebuild the bridge once the Hungarian stonelifting operation was completed.

Today, a memorial in honour of Major-General Gerry Hulme, the British UN official who broke the aid blockade to Mostar in 1993, will be unveiled on Mostar's east bank. He died in 1995 of natural causes.

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Diana: a prisoner of the Palace

In our second extract from the foreword of Andrew Morton's book, *Diana, Her True Story - In Her Own Words*, he tells of the Princess's highs and lows during hours of interviews and the growing tension as Buckingham Palace stepped up the hunt for the royal mole

For Diana, the act of talking about her life provoked many memories, some cheerful, others almost too difficult to put into words. Like a gust of wind across a field of corn, her moods endlessly fluctuated. While she was candid, even whimsical, about her eating disorder, bulimia nervosa, and her half-hearted suicide attempts, she was at her lowest ebb when speaking about her days inside the Royal Family, "the dark ages", as she referred to them. Time and again she emphasised her profound sense of destiny, a belief that she would never become Queen, as well as her awareness that she had been singled out for a special role. She knew in her heart that it was her fate to travel a road where the monarchy was secondary to her true vocation. With hindsight, her words have a remarkable prescience.

At times she was amusingly animated, particularly when talking about her short life as a bachelor girl. She spoke wistfully about her romance with Prince Charles, sadly about her unhappy childhood, and with some passion about the effect Camilla Parker Bowles had had on her life. Indeed, she was so anxious not to be seen as paranoid or foolish, as she had been so often told by her husband's friends, that she showed us several letters and postcards from Mrs Parker Bowles to Prince Charles to prove that she was not imagining their relationship.

These billets-doux — passionate, loving and full of suppressed longing — left my publisher and me in absolutely no doubt that Diana's suspicions were correct. Nevertheless, as we were informed by a leading libel lawyer, the fact that you know something to be true does not allow you to say it. Much to Diana's annoyance, and in spite of overwhelming evidence, I was never able to write that Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles were lovers. Instead I had to allude to a "secret friendship" that had cast a long shadow over the royal marriage.

I used the opportunity of

later interview sessions to fill in many of the gaps that were inevitably left by the first bruisingly honest and virtually seamless narrative of her life story. It took some weeks to appreciate just how powerful was her desire to speak out and, with hindsight, some of my questions were so obviously out of step with the reality of her life that it was inevitable that some of her answers were monosyllabic or simply uncomprehending. Indeed,



Parker Bowles: Morton saw billets-doux

many events I referred to in my later questions, which the media had deemed significant, had little actual relevance to her life. It meant that the whole interviewing process was very much a hit-and-miss process, trawling through existing material in the hope of hitting on a subject that might spark a response and generate a fresh insight.

Just as the questioning was haphazard, so was the process of gathering the information. I was often told, at very short notice, that Diana had a window of opportunity to answer questions. I would then quickly work out a series of queries relating to her life, pass them on and hope for the best. If her mood was engaged and interested, then her answers were revealing and penetrating. Nonetheless, it was a draining process for her, the sessions rarely lasting much more than an hour at any one time. If a

member of staff was lurking, the conversation continued with only a discreetly placed notepad present to jot down relevant material.

As I was working at one remove, I had to second-guess her moods and act accordingly. As a rule of thumb, mornings were the time when she was at her most articulate and energetic, particularly if Prince Charles was absent. Those interview sessions were the most productive, Diana speaking with a breathless haste as she poured out her story. She could be unnervingly lithe, even when talking about the most intimate and difficult periods of her life. When she first talked about her suicide attempts I naturally needed to know a great deal about when and where they had occurred. I subsequently submitted a raft of specific questions on the subject. When they were presented to her, she treated it as a bit of a joke. "He's pretty well written my obituary," she said to the interlocutor.

On the other hand, if a session was arranged for the afternoon, when her energy was low, her conversation was less fruitful. This was particularly so if she had had a bad press or a disagreement with her husband. Then it was usually sensible to focus on happy times, her memories of her bachelor days or her two children, Princes William and Harry. In spite of all these handicaps, it was clear as the weeks passed that her excitement and involvement with the project grew, especially when a title for the book was decided upon. For example, if she knew that I was interviewing a trusted friend, she would pass on a scrap of information, an anecdote or correction, relating to questions I had submitted earlier.

While she was desperate, almost to the point of imprudence, to see her words appear before a wider public, this mood was tempered by a fear that Buckingham Palace would discover her identity as the "Deep Throat" of my book. As the publishing date approached, the tension at Kensington Palace became palpable. Her newly appointed private secretary, Patrick



The Princess in tears in Stockport in 1992, on the day that the contents of Andrew Morton's book were made public

Jepson, described the atmosphere as "like watching a slowly spreading pool of blood seeping hard for my mole. Shortly after one such warning, my offices were burgled and files rifled but nothing of consequence, apart from a camera, was stolen. From then on, a scrambler telephone and local payphones were the only sure way of speaking to her confidants without worrying that the conversations were being

bugged. This problem, however, had been anticipated fairly early on. From the first there was a need to give Diana deniability, developing various ploys so that when she was taken in for interrogation by the Palace guards, she could categorically disavow any involvement with the book. The first line of defence were her friends, who were used as cover to disguise her participation. So in tandem with writ-

ing questions for the Princess, I sent out a number of begging letters to her circle of friends. They in turn contacted Diana to ask whether they should co-operate.

It was a patchy process. With some she was encouraging, with others ambivalent, depending on how well she knew them and how close they were to the true nature of the project. Many of those intimately involved truly believed

life couldn't get any worse for Diana, arguing that anything was better than her situation at the time. There was a sense that the dam was about to burst at any moment. Diana's friends spoke with frankness and honesty, bravely aware that their actions would bring the media spotlight upon them. As the Princess herself explained during her television interview: "A lot of people saw the distress that my life was in, and they felt it was a supportive thing to help in the way that they did."

Her friend and astrologer, Debbie Frank, confirmed this mood when she spoke about Diana's life in the months before the book's publication: "There were times when I would leave a meeting with Diana feeling anxious and concerned because I knew her way was blocked. When Andrew Morton's book was published I was relieved, because the world was let into her secret."

As my interviews progressed, her friends and other acquaintances confirmed that behind the public smiles and glamorous image was a lonely and unhappy young woman who endured a loveless marriage, was seen as an outsider by the Queen and the rest of the Royal Family and was frequently at odds with the aims and objectives of the royal system. Yet one of the heartening aspects of the story was how Diana was striving, with mixed success, to come to terms with her life; a transformation from a victim to a woman in control of her destiny. It was a process that the Princess continued until the very end.

As the project gained momentum, the acid test came when the Princess read the manuscript. It was delivered to her piecemeal at any and every opportunity. Late one Saturday morning, for example, I cycled to the Brazilian Embassy in Mayfair, where the Princess was having lunch with the Ambassador's wife, Lucia Flecha de Lima, so that I could pass on the latest offering. Having been given the opportunity to write the story of the best-loved woman in the world, I was obviously anxious to know that I had fairly and accurately interpreted her sentiments and her words.

To my great relief, she read with approval her own words, which were liberally sprinkled throughout the text, either through direct quotation or in the third person. On one occasion, Diana was so moved by the poignancy of her own story that she confessed to weeping tears of sorrow. She made a number of alterations, of fact and emphasis, but only one of any significance, a change that gives an insight into her respect for the Queen. During the interviews she said that when she threw herself down the stairs at Sandring-

WORDS THAT CAME FROM THE HEART

YESTERDAY, *The Times* disclosed that Andrew Morton's explosive book on Diana, Princess of Wales, was, to all intents and purposes, an autobiography. Words attributed to the Princess's friends and sprinkled liberally throughout the text, published in 1992, were really from her own lips.

In all, the Princess gave Mr Morton six lengthy but secret interviews running to 18,000 words, plus informal assistance. This "personal testimony", in which she speaks freely about the breakdown of her marriage, her suicide attempts and her rift with senior members of the Royal Family, forms the centrepiece of Mr Morton's revised book, *Diana, Her True Story - In Her Own Words*, to be published this weekend.

Yesterday, *The Times* ran part of Mr Morton's foreword to the new edition, in which he emphasises that because of the Princess's direct involvement, the book's authenticity can no longer be in doubt — even though, at the time of its publication — she denied any involvement.

"What people have never realised is the extent of the Princess's commitment to my book," he writes. "The story contained in its pages came from her lips, the pain and heartache in her life revealed in a series of interviews at Kensington Palace during the summer and autumn of 1991. 'There were no camera lights, no rehearsals, no second takes. Her words came from the heart, outlining in graphic and, at times, agonising detail the sorrow and loneliness felt by a woman admired and adored around the world.'

Given the unfolding tragedy of her life and her untimely death, it is hard not to reread her words without shedding a tear. Today her testimony stands as an eloquent and unique witness before the tribunal of history.

Elsewhere, *The Times* re-

ported yesterday that the Princess's involvement went beyond the granting of hours of interviews. She made changes to the text, supplied photographs from the Spencers' family albums, and even provided names and details for captions. She chose the famous cover picture by the French photographer Patrick Demarchelier. But all this was done in secret because she feared the wrath of Buckingham Palace.

Mr Morton portrays the Princess at the time as a "prisoner trapped inside a bitterly unfulfilled marriage, shackled to an unsympathetic royal system and chained to a wholly unrealistic public image of her life".

She felt under constant surveillance — by bodyguards, photographers, the

Royal Family and their courtiers. Gnawing away at her was the feeling that "her life was a grotesque and implacable lie". She knew that her marriage was, in effect, over, and that Prince Charles had returned to his first love, Camilla Parker Bowles. But the royal establishment would go to great lengths to conceal her husband's infidelity and dismissed her suspicions as fantasy and paranoia.

She also feared that Prince Charles's circle would soon begin to discredit her as "irrational" — unfit for motherhood or to represent the monarchy. She had a "nagging fear that at any moment her enemies in the Palace would have her classified as mentally ill and locked away". She was at odds with the

"men in grey suits" at the Palace who wanted her to remain an "attractive adornment" to her intellectual husband.

"Like a prisoner condemned for a crime she did not commit, Diana had a crying need to tell the world the truth about her life, the distress she felt and the ambitions she nurtured..." Mr Morton writes. "She felt that if she was able to explain her story to the people, her people, they could truly understand her before it was too late. 'Let them be my judge', she said, confident that the public would not criticise her as harshly as the Royal Family or media."

At the same time, Mr Morton, who had left his staff job as a royal reporter on the *Daily Star* in 1987, was re-

searching a full-scale biography on the Princess's life. She turned to him after he wrote a series of articles sympathetic to her cause. But with Prince Charles still living at Kensington Palace, subterfuge was necessary. The Princess was interviewed by an intermediary, so that if she was asked whether she had met Mr Morton, she could answer "with a resounding 'No'".

Mr Morton writes: "I submitted endless written questions about every aspect of her life. In return, she answered as best she could. Her words spilt out of her, with her barely pausing for breath. It was a great release."

NICHOLAS WOOD

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who longed to set herself free

ham while pregnant with Prince William, the Queen was the first on the scene. On the manuscript, Diana altered the text and inserted the Queen Mother's name, presumably out of deference to the Sovereign.

Even though a number of Diana's close friends were prepared to go on the record in order to underpin the authenticity of the text, the Princess accepted that the book needed a direct link with her own family in order to give it a necessary legitimacy. As a result she agreed to supply the Spencer family albums, containing endless delightful portraits of the growing Diana, many taken by her late father, Earl Spencer. One day several large red, gold-embossed family albums made their way to the office of my publisher, Michael O'Mara in South London. A number of photographs were selected, duplicated and the albums returned. The Princess herself helped to identify many of the people who appeared in the photographs with her, a process she greatly enjoyed as it brought back many happy memories, particularly of her teenage years.

She appreciated, too, the fact that, in order to make the book truly distinctive, we had to have a hitherto unpublished jacket picture. As it was out of the question that she attend a photo shoot, she herself chose and supplied the winsome Patrick Demarchelier cover photograph, which was one she kept in her study at Kensington Palace. This shot, and those of her and her children which were used inside, were her particular favourites.

When the book was published on June 16, 1992, she was relieved that at last her account was out, but desperately anxious that her cover story would hold water. She had to be able to deny involvement when she was put in the dock by the Palace. It was a part she played with aplomb. The author and TV star Clive James fondly recalled asking her over lunch whether she was behind the book. He wrote: "At least once, however, she lied to me outright. 'I really had nothing to do with that Andrew Morton book,' she said. 'But after my friends talked to him I had to stand by them'. She looked me straight in the eye when she said this, so I could see how plausible she could be when she was telling a whopper."

As a result of the necessary distance she put between herself and the book it meant that I, her friends and others, were effectively fighting her corner with one hand behind our back. In the face of the barrage of abuse and vilification which greeted the book's three central assertions, namely Diana's eating disorder, bulimia nervosa, her suicide attempts

and Prince Charles's relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles, it is an understatement to say that it would have been helpful if she had announced her complete co-operation. Indeed, the animosity, scepticism and sheer vitriol with which the Establishment and their media acolytes first greeted the publication of my book graphically demonstrated the difficulties of presenting the truth to the British public. In the months following that

momentous event, the book not only altered the way the public viewed the monarchy and forced the Prince and Princess of Wales finally to address the ruins of their marriage, it also brought the one thing Diana had dreamt of — hope: the chance of fulfilment, of freedom and of a future where she was liberated at last to be a person in her own right.

In the past five years, particularly the last few months of her life, the world witnessed the flowering of Diana's true nature, qualities which would have remained buried if she had not had the courage and determination to tell her public about the reality of her life. Diana achieved that aim, and the public's verdict can be gauged by the mountain of flowers outside Kensington Palace and elsewhere, and the outpouring of grief that has convulsed not just her own country but the rest of the world.

While the public's image of Diana underwent an astonishing transformation when her story was told, I don't think she ever truly thought through the consequences of her actions. As she said on television when asked that question: "I don't know. Maybe people have a better understanding, maybe there's a lot of women out there who suffer on the same level but in a different environment who are unable to stand up for themselves because their self-esteem is cut in two."

Once again, her instinct about the response was unerring as literally thousands of women, many from America, expressed how, through reading about her life, they had discovered and explored something in their own lives. Her motivation was first and foremost a desperate cry for help, an appeal over the heads of the Palace who confined her, to the people who loved her. She wanted to make known to those people her true story, so that they might judge her worth for themselves.

She may now be gone, but her words are with us for ever. When I wrote *Diana, Her True Story* her testimony was used *sub voce* throughout the text — in short, direct quotation or through third parties. One of the abiding sadnesses of her short life was that she never truly had the chance to "sing openly". If she had enjoyed a full life she would probably have written her own memoirs at some point. Sadly, that is no longer possible. The testimony which follows is her life story as she wanted to tell it. Her words are now all we have of her, her testament, the nearest we will now ever get to her autobiography. No one can deny her that.

© © Andrew Morton 1997
Extracted from *Diana: Her True Story* — In Her Own Words by Andrew Morton, to be published by Michael O'Mara Books Ltd on October 6 at £15.99. To order your copy for £15.99 (p&p is free) call 01403 710851 (lines open Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)



Diana and a gillie on the Duke of Westminster's Scottish estate during her honeymoon



A portrait of Diana with Prince Harry and Prince William that appears in the Child of Achievement Awards annual



Diana agreed to supply the Spencer family albums, containing photographs such as this one with her sister, Jane

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TOMORROW



All Diana wanted was love. As she once told her father when he flew to Paris to buy her a present: 'I don't want that, I just want you'

Richard Cork on the young Rembrandt's violent biblical masterpiece, on show at the National Gallery. Plus other London shows

Blinded by a savage brilliance

There is nothing seductive about the light irradiating Rembrandt's *The Blinding of Samson*. It hits our eyes like the flash from a bomb-blast, and the scene disclosed by the glare is almost too horrible to explore. But Rembrandt ensures that his titanic painting is impossible to evade. We find ourselves lingering in front of the canvas, appalled by the ferocity of the crime it depicts.

On loan to the National Gallery from the Städelches Kunstinstitut in Frankfurt, this truculent image reveals the most disquieting side of Rembrandt's protean imagination. Executed in 1636, when the 30-year-old artist was primarily renowned for his portraits, it shows the seriousness of his ambitions as a history painter. Rubens, whose success he wanted to emulate, had already proved that the Old Testament story of Samson's downfall could be dramatised on the grand scale. But Rembrandt wanted to go further than merely echoing the mood of stealthy, candlelit treachery in Rubens's celebrated *Samson and Delilah*.

The young Rembrandt had no time for classical decorum, and the Bible's account of Samson's blinding by the Philistines proved an irresistible challenge. He chose the moment when the violence was at its sadistic peak. Far from underplaying the assault, he made it as specific as possible. The composition bristles with fierce diagonals, all pointing inexorably towards Samson's face. The most thrusting element is the weapon held by the halberdier. He stands astride the foreground, pushing his thick, ugly blade towards the Jewish giant. Painted with a cursory roughness that matches his belligerence, he seems eager to administer the coup de grâce.

But fear as well as aggression can be detected in his wildly enlarged eyes. He knows that Samson was strong enough to kill a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. So his whole body remains tense, bracing itself for the possibility that the captive may throw off his tormentors and retaliate.

Rembrandt counters the soldier's stance by making the deceptive

Delilah rush in the opposite direction. Carrying the "seven locks" sheared from Samson's head, her arm juts forward in apparent triumph. His tendrils stream in the air like smoke from an Olympic torch, and her hurtling energy looks unstoppable. But why the need to run, if the operation's success is assured? The temptress's face, however, betrays emotions more ambiguous than straightforward gloating. While allowing herself to smile, she glances back at her stricken lover with apprehension in her eyes.

Delilah only has to look at his right foot, flung out towards her like a mighty reproach. In order to gauge Samson's anguish. Naked and defenceless, it reacts in a spasm to the unbearable pain travelling down from his head. All five toes are bent forward, clenching themselves against the outrage. But he can do nothing to ward off his assailants. Far more uncouth than his handsome, sculpturally muscled counterpart in Rubens's painting, he topples backwards.

He raises his right arm in desperation and bunches the fist, as if ready to fell his enemies with a single, decisive blow. But another soldier manacles his wrist, and pulls the chain so hard that Samson's weathered skin bleeds. All he can do is flail, unable to stop a third soldier from leaning over the upturned arm and pulling at the captive's luxuriant yet grey-flecked beard. The chain-mail hand seems bent on tearing a hank of hair away, thereby humiliating his victim still further. His armour gleams invincibly in the light, contrasting with Samson's bare and vulnerable flesh.

No one can prevent him from fulfilling his cruel aim. He claps his instrument of torture not at the handle but further down, around the viciously twisted blade. This must arise from the need for absolute accuracy. However forcefully he pushes his dagger deep into the right eye, he wants to function with surgical exactitude. The blinding must be irreversible. Rembrandt spares us nothing in



The Blinding of Samson, painted when Rembrandt was 30. Later he moved away from its exclamatory manner towards a quieter, more introspective approach

his determination to show the deed in all its excruciating gruesomeness. As the curved blade hits the eye-ball, blood shoots up in leaping lines of liquid, red against the soldier's black armour. Rembrandt's brushwork, so free in the halberdier's limbs, here becomes grimly precise. He lavishes special care on the dagger's elaborate handle, carved into the shape of an oriental figure.

The sight of this bald, peaceful, Buddha-like form, gazing down the blade to the gory point of impact, only adds to the sense of revulsion. Lines of anguish score Samson's brow, while two rows of yellow teeth are exposed as he tries to prevent himself from screaming. His mouth looks even more clenched when compared with the soldier on the painting's right edge. Plumed, moustachioed and expensively

clothed, he raises his sword in an attitude of command. But the atrocity of the blinding startles him, and his mouth opens in an involuntary yell.

As an artist who depended so heavily on the health of his own eyes, Rembrandt must have regarded the act of blinding with utter dismay. That is surely why he was able to paint Samson's plight with such convincing insight. The outcome was so profoundly unsettling that it may even have alienated the influential connoisseur and collector Constantijn Huygens, who had previously been instrumental in fostering Rembrandt's precocious career. Realising that Huygens often admired violent subjects, the artist appears to have given his patron *The Blinding of Samson* and advised him to "hang this piece in a strong light, so that one can stand at a distance and it will

have the best effect". Huygens's response is not recorded, but the alarming impact of this canvas probably played its part in turning him against Rembrandt's work. Soon after receiving it, Huygens's interest in his protégé cooled.

For his part, Rembrandt turned against the painting as well. In later years he moved away from its exclamatory manner towards a far quieter, more introspective approach. His work gained in profundity as he grew older, and yet there is no denying the macabre brilliance of this early showpiece. In its merciless light, so different from the perpetual darkness to which Samson is condemned, Rembrandt is brave enough to confront us with humanity's capacity for barbarism at full stretch.

● *The Blinding of Samson*, National Gallery (0171-639 3321) until Nov 16

AROUND THE GALLERIES

IN RECENT years it has become fashionable to suggest that, whenever two artists are married, the wife is inevitably pushed into the background. The matter does not arise with the Carlines, Richard and Nancy, who are at the centre of a new exhibition at the National Theatre.

No doubt he is slightly better remembered because of his close friendship with his brother-in-law Stanley Spencer and his writings on art, rather than his painting. In fact, she was the more passionately motivated painter of the two. On the other hand, it was through him and his family that Nancy (Higgins, as she then was) came in contact with Spencer and his circle, and the whole galaxy of artists which revolved round the Carlines' family home in Hampstead.

The show includes, as well as sundry Carlines and Spencers, work by Gertler, Ruszkowski and Caryl Weight, but Nancy emerges as the real discovery. When she left the Slade in 1932 she went first to work in the costume department of Sadler's Wells, and a certain theatrical flair and colour pervade her work. Richard's work is more analytical and intellectual; Nan-

cy's remains throughout moody and romantic. *Oliver Lobb, National Theatre, SE1 (0171-428 2033); Mon-Sat 10am-11pm, until Nov 8*

PORNO film posters of the Sixties and Seventies are being subjected to serious critical scrutiny in *Sexhibition* at the Metro Cinema deep in Soho. The films in question are all British, and all legit to the extent, at least, that they boast a BBFC X certificate, which meant that a veil was tactfully drawn over anything that might offend the most puritanical. Also, while many of the films were amateurish, the posters for such as *Emanuelle Meets the Wife Swappers* are thoroughly professional, designed by very capable poster designers in the same spirit of artistic application that they might have brought to *Doctor Zhivago*. The result is a curiously beguiling innocence, not even as knowing as a seaside postcard, and on the whole much prettier.

Metro Cinema, 11 Rupert Street, W1 (0171-432 0343); daily 1.30-11pm, until Oct 21

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Robespierre the winner by a head

For conspiracy theorists there is a novel twist to Georg Büchner's cynical tilt at the last ten days of Danton's life. Whether by accident or design, David Farr's vigorous version puts one in mind not of the French Revolution in 1794, but of the ugly scramble for Conservative leadership after the Tory aristocracy was duly decapitated in 1977.

William Hague is here played by Jamie Newall's evangelical Robespierre; Ken Clarke by Breffni McKenna's bonhomous Danton. The duelling orators — one upright and dangerously ambitious, the other affable and hung over — circle and knife each other from the safety of the soapbox. This last prop is the thematic key to Antony Macilwaine's unusual set. Every wall has a soapbox or rampart from which the politicians shout

THEATRE
Danton's Death
Gate

their prejudices like Greek demagogues. Indeed the entire audience is forced to sit on wooden boxes.

It makes good thematic sense because the best bits of Büchner's documentary satire are declaimed in speeches: towering polemics delivered with fantastic fervour by Robespierre and Danton. Newall's Robespierre, not breaking sweat but picking pedantically at his ring finger, plays dirty and brilliant, appealing, like a brimstone cleric to Virtue, that no man can be greater than the revolution. Danton, yesterday's man about to be tomorrow's headless entertainment, rouses

himself from his melancholy stupor to deliver firebrand speeches of seething indignation. It is breathtaking to think how young Büchner was when he wrote these verbal pyrotechnics: he died aged 23.

Although it is Danton's death, this is clearly Robespierre's play. Brooding like Salieri on Danton's popularity and on his loose and libertine ways with prostitutes, Robespierre unleashes a witch-hunt against the architect of the revolution. It is a fantastic performance: psychotic, compelling... believable.

The peasant chorus duly concurs that there is no contest when it comes to choosing a good guillotining over a loaf of bread. My only real niggle is that the tempo falls flat in the jagged documentary scenes, of which there are far too many. The few that work are like oil paintings, the actors frozen

like waxworks until brought to life. "Danton, don't you think that death is a shallow, miserable waste of time?" asks Milo Tomeny's Camille in one such scenario. When the small cart bearing the doomed revolutionaries is pulled to the scaffold by Robespierre and St Just, you have a chilling idea of what he means.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

REWARDING TIMES

Objects of Desire

THE MODERN STILL LIFE

An exclusive reader evening

Readers of *The Times* are invited to an exclusive private view of the first comprehensive exhibition to celebrate and explore the 20th-century still life.

The evening on November 6, 1997, from 6.30-8.30pm, includes a guided tour of the exhibition and an informal reception with wine in the Hayward Gallery on the South Bank, London.

The exhibition, created by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, brings together over 160 modern masterpieces from collections worldwide. Highlights include Marcel Duchamp's *Bicycle Wheel*, Man Ray's spike-covered iron, *Gift*, Matisse's *Goldfish and Palette*, Meret Oppenheim's fur-covered teacup and saucer, *Object*, a white *Lobster Telephone* by Salvador Dalí, René Magritte's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Jasper Johns's *Flag*, and *Brillo Boxes* by Andy Warhol.

From Cézanne to Koons, this exhibition explores the ways in which exceptional artists and exceptional works have transformed the vision and meaning of the still life in the modern age.



Tickets: £12 (includes entrance to the exhibition, guided tour and drinks). Call the Hayward Gallery box office on 0171-960 4242. (Tickets must be purchased in advance. There is a £1 charge for telephone bookings for handling and postage). *Objects of Desire: the Modern Still Life* is organised under the auspices of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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...a triumphalism

No sniping, no flapping, no grousing

Peter Stothard sees a party pinioned by political taxidermists

The taxidermist's first task is to block up the bird's mouth with cotton wool. The second is to break both wings, first the left and then the right, as close as possible to the body. The third stage is to lay the bird on its back and replace its brains with sawdust or plaster-of-paris, before displaying it on the Brighton seafont.

Such was the art of the wealthy 19th-century naturalist, Edward Thomas Booth, whose legacy, locked in 300 glass cases, is one of the local attractions on show to Labour Party delegates this week. Such is the art too, protesters complain, of the political modernisers who have created the main show in town with a vision, brutality and obsessive attention to detail that would have surely made Brighton's great Victorian hunter proud to know them.

The Booth Museum was one of the first to show dead birds in lavishly painted likenesses to the fields, rocks and lakes where they once enjoyed life. It is a popular haunt for lovers of Victorian taxidermy and also of Brighton itself, where some of the great "bird stuffing" companies of the age had their headquarters. For that reason it is perhaps not the most cheerful place from which to contemplate one's fate as a common-or-garden attendee of new Labour conferences. But the curators have ambitious expansion plans and hopes for lottery grants. They may not expect too many visitors to give up their festival of congratulation to drop by. But they are ever hopeful.

After the opening days, they know that the fun of the conference quickly fades. In the Grand Hotel bar there are only a few kisses that can be exchanged. In the Metropole foyer there are only a few election souvenirs to be traded and jobs to be sought in the new empire of patronage. The defeat of Peter Mandelson in the NEC election was a rare success of the masses against the system. But once Gordon Brown has delivered his last millennial aspirations and Tony Blair has been seen on the closed-circuit TV (only the most privileged can guarantee themselves a seat to see him in the flesh), the delegates may want to leave their 8ft wire cage around the Brighton Centre and look further afield.

In the Booth Museum they will find that at least only the birds are silent, stuffed and behind bars. Outside in the conference area, every would-be politician has to be so careful before they open their mouths that some might actually like to have their jaws wired in the permanent gape of a tree-toad. This is the party of government now — or so they have been warned. Liberal Democrats can rant about euthanasia. Tories can plot to assassinate yet another leader; but new Labour needs the discipline of the great naturalists of old. Its snipe and snipe no more. The razorbill has to turn his razor on some enemy species instead of doing

what razorbills do best, attacking fellow members of their clan. The shoveller duck can shovel muck around its cage as much as it likes — as long as it does not drop any around the leadership. Grouse are welcome — preferably with a fine claret from the De Vere cellars. Grouse are not.

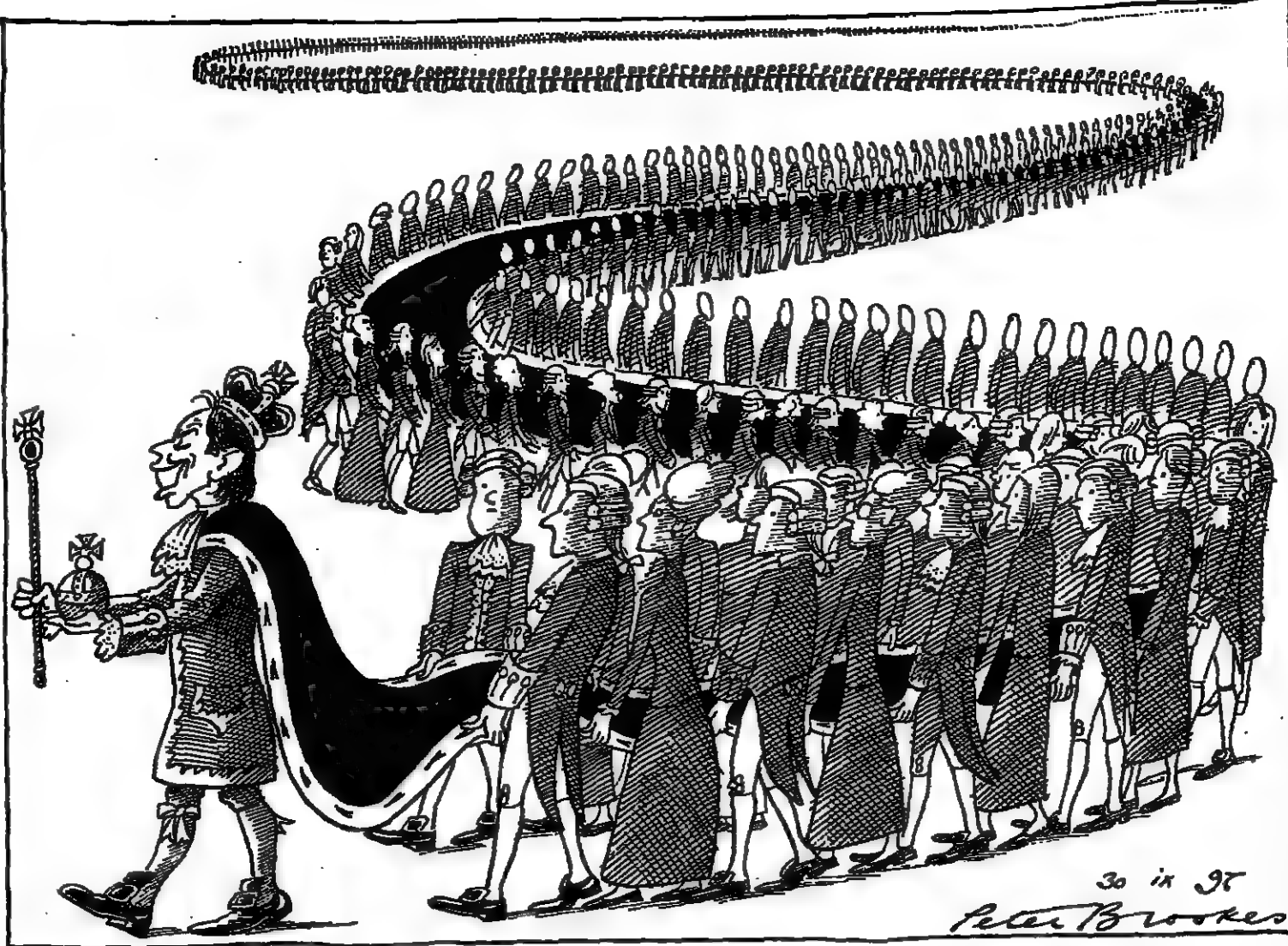
Of course, not all of those on the seafont feel that their liberty is constrained. The backroom advertising executives and election strategists are basking in the Brighton sun and may never feel the need to sneak away for morbid museum tours. Their job is done and they can rest secure in the plaids of even those whose victory has condemned to a sort of useless servitude. The result in May was a triumph that can never be taken away from the private pollsters and geniuses of strategy. Nothing that the politicians can do will deny their success in steering Labour through to victory. The 178-seat majority will be forever on their CVs, helping them to win political accounts from troubled democrats (and not so democrats) all over the world. Nothing that ministers or delegates do from now onwards will make the slightest difference to their prospects.

The defeat of Mandelson was a rare success of the masses against the system

The second group at liberty is made up of the spin-doctors who are still spinning and the spin-doctors who want to become full-scale politicians in their own right. Peter Mandelson, who will be back on top long before he is out, is only the best known of this species. Their motto is permanent vigilance. They are never happier than when catching, dressing and stuffing every cuckoo, jay, jackdaw or birdy troublemaker they can find. There is the skill with the skinning-pliers (acute or obtuse, depending upon the need); there is the art of deciding whether the former flying creature would look better with its left wing broken or its right; whether it deserves a plaster brain or woodchips. That is their art — and a successful modern party cannot prosper without artists of this sort.

Meanwhile the great mass of delegates, its sense of success intensified by the scale of victory, has to be given something to do. One job in Brighton is to talk to the thousands of bankers, corporate accountants, environmental pressurisers and lobbyists. These contributors to new Labour coffers do not feel happy if they spend the week talking to each other.

The bolder activist can aspire to a constituency post on the new NEC or a place on a policy forum. But what is the victorious infantry to do? Going back to its constituencies and preparing for powerlessness is not enough. Like all victorious soldiers it must be kept for when it is next needed to face the enemy and kept content enough to stop it attacking its own generals in the meantime. Some leadership problems are new; most are even older than the birds of Edward Booth.



THE NEW LABOUR PROPOSAL FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT

Yesterday's agenda

Why does the prestige of politics go unchallenged at the BBC when there's a world outside Westminster?

I caught myself out in a nasty little vice the other day. Not just a common one, like gluttony or impure thoughts: only a tiny minority of the adult population is even tempted to this perversion, and a great many of those are so far lost to decency that they make a living at it. My excuse is the time of year, for these are dangerous weeks and the fumes from Brighton are very strong.

Reader, I confess it. For fleeting, shallow pleasure I fell into the eighth deadly sin, the sin of political analysis. Listening to Robin Cook on the radio, I found myself narrowing my eyes and saying: "Hald I wonder what Gordon Brown will think of that? Especially considering what he said after that remark by Prescott about Peter Mandelson..."

The madness was on me. I no longer wanted Mr Cook to say something informative about the single currency or arms sales. I wanted him to say something which would enable me mentally to construct a wicked little Punch-and-Judy show in which members of the elected Government bopped one another with big clubs and squawks of "Yarrol" and "Bastards!" I wanted the interviewer to prod and provoke and tease Mr Cook with suggestions that his colleagues didn't respect him, until he lost his rag and started spluttering. This is known, in media circles, as "setting the agenda".

Then I wanted to tune to the next programme down the line and hear a political commentator speak of "crisis", in the warm certainty that next day all the newspapers would be full of "unprecedented rows" and "spits". You see how low I had sunk. I didn't want the Government to get on with its job and tell us the truth: I wanted it to rip itself to pieces in public, for my amusement.

The guilt returned yesterday, when with nice irony the Today programme — one of the very groups whose mission it is to stir up rows between politicians — was itself the victim of outside stirring. In Paul Donovan's forthcoming (and horribly entertaining) history of the programme, there is a solemn analysis of the precedence of the current presenters. Hold on to your seats for the revelation that Mr Humphrys gets the "important" 8.00am political interview 67 per cent of the time when he is on duty, while Mr Naughtie gets it 47.8 per cent of the

time and Miss MacGregor 29.65 per cent.

This is accompanied by some light-hearted remarks from the latter about "M.C. Piggy" and a certain colleague who "oozes testosterone" (a metaphor so robustly revolting that I recognise it with joy as coming authentically from Our Sue). Then a rash of newspaper stories full of BBC people "denying claims" and "rebutting accusations". Very satisfying to see the tables turned: next time a politician finds himself being goaded over the state of his relations with colleagues, he can snap back "Look who's talking, Mister 67 per Cent".

The trio, and the BBC, have assured the stir-artists of the press that they all love one another, and I tend to believe them, more or less. But the programme, like our trade in general, has started enough embarrassing dogfights to deserve a dose of its own medicine. Take the fate which befell poor Austin Mitchell, MP, retold in Donovan's book. Writing on Labour policymaking, he jokingly quoted a party member who had asked what was the difference between Labour processes and those of Kim Il Sung, the Korean dictator. Picked up and quoted, by way of another newspaper's powerful spin and a bit of chortling on Today by Michael Heseltine, the remark was transformed into a story that Austin Mitchell had compared his leader to Kim Il Sung, which he never did: "So here I am, my career ruined, my future in the Labour Party wrecked, and all because of the Today programme."

This happens all the time in political journalism, and then we have the nerve to complain that politicians are dull and wordy and intemperate. If they are, it is our fault. We force them to drone banalities by keeping them in a crazy echo-chamber where everything they say is distorted into madness and

amplified by 24-hour speculation and extrapolation. We force them to speak in cheap slogans because if they try to admit difficulty or ambiguity, or say anything heartfelt or complex, we wilfully misunderstand. Look at what keeps happening to Clare Short.

The Today shenanigan, frothy in itself, sheds some useful light on this major absurdity of our time. Today is a pivotal part of our whole culture of reporting: its methods and values are taken up by television and print. Embedded in this culture, and evident in the "prestige" row, is a strangely unchallenged conviction that the most important thing you can do is to speak to a Cabinet minister at ten past eight, and get him or her to say something which will start the echo-chamber roaring. It may not advance the cause of public understanding

or good government or truth, but it "sets the agenda", and that is what counts. It seems not to matter if the agenda turns out to be complete cobbler.

To go back in the programme's history — and incidentally my own — it is interesting to find a view from the 1970s, when this culture first began to dominate. As a junior producer I used to find it hilarious to watch two grown men, Brian Redhead and John Timpon, eyeing one another's list of morning interviews with the jealous intensity of small children counting Smarties. Timpon, in affable retirement, now says with frankness: "I felt deeply about politics... I could never take politics seriously at all. But to keep the thing balanced I insisted on doing as many political interviews as he did, although most of the time I wasn't too clear what I was talking about."

There you are: even if you think it's nonsense, you must play the big boys' game. Never mind that there is a whole world outside Westminster, its reporting squeezed by nine-minute marathons of empty obfuscation;

never mind that the lay listener may be bored stiff with face-slapping matches and find more nourishment in some unsung reporter's exposure of solid fact. The primacy of the political interview, half clubby and half club-wielding, is unchallenged, and imitated one rank below by similarly ritual encounters with lobbyists and tub-thumpers. Nor does anybody seem to have noticed that when the presenters themselves are permitted to report on some actual event, they shine far more brightly.

Luckily, when my own time came to present Today for three and a half years, I was so young and idealistic that it never occurred to me that interviewing Cabinet ministers represented the path to enlightenment. At party conference time I was content to be the one left behind to cover the rest of the known universe. They did make me go to some EC summits during the Prime Minister's "Non!" period, but I never did grasp the fun of sifting around in smoky rooms until 2am waiting to be told absolutely nothing (in a great many words) by Bernard Ingham. Once I went to bed early and met the producer and an economics correspondent next morning at 5.30. "What happened?" I asked, and simultaneously the producer said "Nothing" and the economist "Crisis!"

Finally we sorted out a form of words to cover a crisis in which nothing occurs, and went on the air with it. But I never regarded it as a pinnacle scaled. As a reward for this female uselessness in the political arena, I got sent to China instead, and had the glorious experience of saying: "From Peking, over now to Brian in Brighton at the Liberal Party Conference." All around me baffled Chinese cadres, who had never seen a live programme and yearned for democracy, stood listening to the prattle from the other side of the world ("It looks as if Mrs Thatcher may be wobbling on that"). Some of them took notes. Poor devils.

My hunch is that the mode will pass. Already there are signs of change: the recorded feature, the sound of real reporting, is making a discernible comeback. Once or twice recently there has been such a report without it being immediately followed by a brace of squabbling politicians. If I were Sue MacGregor I would wear my 29.65 per cent proudly, like a badge of freedom.

Libby Purves

Mandy swings

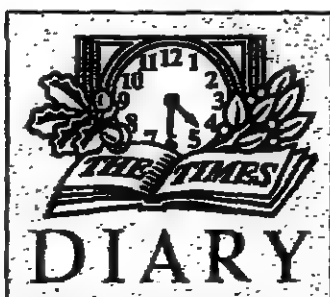
HE may not have a portfolio, nor a seat on the national executive, but he does have a hanger. Peter Mandelson was involved in an extraordinary scene at a party in Brighton on Sunday night.

In gregarious mood, Mandelson became embroiled with nightclub bouncers during an altercation at a fringe party. As comedians Hugh Laurie and Lenny Henry entertained guests at bash at the Metropole Hotel, revellers, including Neil Kinnock and John Prescott, saw Mandelson, who had been dancing with Sinead O'Connor, jump on stage to grab a microphone. Bouncers asked him to leave the stage. The minister refused. One said: "He was quite excited. Two asked him to leave — there was a kerfuffle. He stayed and did moves from Flashdance."

Another remarked: "He sparked a stage invasion — 30 followed. It turned into a bonfire. Lenny Henry had performed Sex Machine with his band Poor White Trash. The crowd went crazy." Very decorous, I am sure.

Playing ball

AMONG the cheering crowds at England's World Cup qualifier with Italy next month will be the unlikely figure of Gordon Brown.



in Brighton yesterday, he was bemused to find them all talking frantically into mobile telephones. "It's the only time I've been in a room full of men where everyone is trying to prove they've got the smallest one," he sighed.

Mine Kampf

AFTER a parliamentary career spent savaging CND, the defeated Tory MP Lady Olga Maitland is set to write a book about landmines to continue the crusade led by Diana, Princess of Wales.

A single visit to Bosnia in January was enough to raise her hackles. "It was ghastly," she recalls. "I can't replace Diana, but someone's got to carry on the fight. I can rough it as well as the next man — I've parachuted in Canada, you know." Despite her concern, Mait-

land declined ever to raise the issue in the House. "I was too busy fighting the election," she says. Unlikely to appear in the acknowledgements page are Maitland's Conservative colleagues. "My party behaved like absolute asses. I never said so in public but I told them in private. And as for Nicholas Soames laying into Diana... what an old fool."

Naomi's off

CLEARLY elated at being claimed



"You can't go anywhere without Mandelson knowing"

by President Mandela as his "honorary granddaughter", the Streatham supermodel Naomi Campbell is set to move to South Africa. Over the past few days she has been viewing property in Cape Town at the invitation of Mandela, who wanted to thank her for her contribution to his Children's Fund. "I do love it here," she smiled coyly from the dining car of the Blue Train, an African version of the Orient Express. "But until I buy something I can stay with my grandfather."

AT LAST, sympathy for spin-doctors. Charles Lewington, who did his best to sell a poor product at the last election (the Tory party) tells me that John Major once said to him: "I know I have a difficult job but I wouldn't want yours."

Edited out

FRESH from allegations that they have short-changed Sue MacGregor, those chauvinist rotters at the BBC have done it again. Next week they celebrate 40 years of the Today programme by releasing a compilation of less smoozy moments. But by some dreadful oversight (or snub) the Beeb has not included any examples of Anna Ford.



Anna Ford: silenced

bellion against her bosses' plans to take a broom to the programme's production staff, has certainly made her mark on its history. In April, she was forced to apologise to her loyal audience after branding The Archers' Simon Pemberton "a shir", and last September she had a noisy on-air tiff with the then Chancellor, Ken Clarke. John Birt, the Director-General, publicly reamed her for her "short-comings" of the interview.

Despite these milestones, no Ms Ford, why so? Strangely, a BBC commandment would not allow me to speak to the presenter.

JASPER GERARD

Brown's poisoned cocktail

Anatole Kaletsky

says we mustn't be

bounced into EMU

As Tony Blair and Gordon Brown bask in the adulation of the party faithful at Brighton, a possible clash between the next-door neighbours at Downing Street is looming into view. At stake, predictably, are the issues that have poisoned the relationships between so many previous Prime Ministers and Chancellors of both parties — the explosive cocktail of sterling and Europe.

We may never know whether Mr Brown's political office was responsible for placing last week's story about an imminent announcement on joining European monetary union. But the ambiguity of the Treasury's response — the story was dismissed as "pure speculation", but was not specifically denied — suggests that Mr Brown was not displeased to see these rumours circulating in the media and gaining the financial markets. What, then, are Mr Brown and his friends really up to? Let us engage in some "pure speculation".

First and foremost the Cabinet's Euro-enthusiasts are trying to create unstoppable "momentum" (a favourite term of new Labour politicians) for British membership of EMU. Although Mr Brown would probably like to join the single currency as quickly as possible, the precise date of joining is less important than the sense that membership is inevitable. Once this conviction becomes sufficiently widespread, it becomes a waste of time to debate the principles of the single currency project or the costs and benefits of Britain staying out in the long term. Inevitably has the further advantage of making the Euro-phobic Tories seem to be living on another planet — a party strictly for the lunatic fringe.

Last week's FT story fits perfectly with this plan. By introducing the idea that Britain might commit itself to EMU membership even before the next general election, the Treasury can hope to achieve numerous objectives. Until last week, it seemed likely that the new Government would stick to a slightly modified version of John Major's "wait and see" approach. Britain would try to help its partners make EMU successful and would keep open the option of joining sometime in the indefinite future, provided the economic conditions were right and the project was going well. This seems to me to be still the most likely formulation for the Government to announce later this year.

After last week's stories, however, expectations may have been raised sufficiently for a statement like that to be represented as a "setback" for British membership of EMU and an indication of wavering commitment to Europe. As a result, Mr Brown and his allies now have a new argument for pressing the Prime Minister for a stronger line, perhaps even including a commitment to join by a definite date, such as 2002.

The stories about early EMU membership also have obvious economic attractions for Mr Brown. By persuading the markets that Britain's exchange rate will be, say, DM2.65, Mr Brown may hope to undo some of the damage caused by his decision on Bank of England independence, which directly led to the uncomfortable strength of the pound.

Unfortunately for the Government, however, the markets are not stupid, however excitable and credulous they may seem in the short-term. It may soon become apparent that Britain will not, in fact, join EMU before the next election, if only for the simple reason that Tony Blair is not mad enough to jeopardise his entire political career — and with it the entire future of the Labour party — by calling a referendum which he could never be sure of winning, however high his government may stand in its own private polls.

Once markets realise this, they will calculate that there is no chance of Britain joining EMU before the next election — meaning in effect 2002. From this they will conclude that nothing that is said or rumoured today about Mr Brown's views on exchange rates will bear the slightest relationship to where the pound will be by the time Britain actually joins.

Once this becomes apparent, the pound will rebound. In the long-run, therefore, the Treasury will have achieved nothing in its attempt to manipulate the market. If, however, the EMU rumours succeed in creating a temporary bout of sterling weakness, the Bank of England may well feel obliged to respond by raising interest rates, thereby adding to the pressure on industry, since these interest rate hikes are unlikely to be reversed promptly once the pound's strength revives.

If all this comes to pass it will raise a fascinating political question. Will Mr Blair blame his Chancellor for having mismanaged sterling and damaged the economy by trying to bounce him into EMU? Or will Mr Brown manage to persuade the Prime Minister into his half-heartedness towards EMU is no longer sufficient and that the economic difficulties require Britain's commitments to be ratcheted up? Which ever the answer turns out to be, it will not contribute to the unity of the government or the warmth of relations between the two neighbours in Downing Street.



THE BROWN VERSION

Unpopularity goes with a Labour Chancellor's job

It is far easier to be a Conservative than a Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer. Tory activists love phrases such as "prudent fiscal policy" or "bearing down on inflation", to Labour delegates they resemble cough medicine. So Gordon Brown was forced yesterday to spoon out the sugar before he reminded the Labour Party conference that Britain needed "not pump-priming but discipline". To the dour Scottish Chancellor, these might have been words. To a conference audience aching for higher public sector pay and more money for public services, they sounded more like threats.

The main sweetener came in the form of a half-promise to restore full employment as a goal of government policy. The two words are iconic to the Left, but Mr Brown seems to have redefined them so as to lose much of their force. Full employment now means "employment opportunity for all". In other words, the Chancellor aims eventually to make all people employable — but that is not the same as creating the economic conditions in which everyone can get a job.

Through its Welfare to Work policies, the Government may be able to address the supply-side problems of unemployment. It can help the unskilled to learn skills, and remove the financial disincentives to coming off benefit. If these policies work, the level of unemployment at the peak of a boom could be reduced to just a few per cent. But what Mr Brown cannot guarantee, as he seemed to be doing yesterday, is that full employment can persist in all cases. Unless the Chancellor can work miracles and abolish the business cycle, there will be years in which the unemployed, however well qualified, will be unable to find jobs because of a low level of demand in the economy.

There are some worrying signs from the Treasury that the Chancellor does believe that he can walk on water. Although officials are impressed by Mr Brown's intelligence,

they are alarmed by his arrogance and secrecy. All Labour Chancellors tend to be wary of the Treasury and try to create counterweights to it in party mythology, this is the department that has wrecked many a Labour administration. In the 1960s, Labour created a rival, the Department of Economic Affairs; in the 1970s, it put faith in the National Economic Development Office. Neither worked as hoped. So, instead of looking for external solutions to an internal problem, Mr Brown has simply decided to import his own men.

The result is that Ed Balls, his economic adviser, and Charlie Whelan, his spin-doctor, have more power than any civil servant. Mr Brown uses officials for advice, but often takes decisions without them. As a result, relations are poor within the department. They are also poor with the Bank of England. Senior officials complain that they have to clear up the antagonisms that Mr Brown leaves in his wake.

But there is no doubting his ability, or the confidence invested in him by the Prime Minister. So far Mr Brown has managed to deliver a skilful Budget and win plaudits from the City. Given how suspicious financial markets tend to be of Labour administrations, the equanimity with which this one has been received owes much to Mr Brown's competence.

Harder decisions, inevitably, lie ahead. For this year and next, the Chancellor is bound by his manifesto commitment to the last Government's spending plans. This may infuriate and disappoint his supporters, but it is at least an unimpeachable excuse for resisting public sector profligacy. By next year, the pledge will have run out and the deficit should be much smaller. Then Mr Brown will have to make invidious choices. Does he reward teachers or nurses? Does he cut taxes or raise spending? Whatever he decides, a standing ovation at conference is likely to elude him once more.

SET IN STONE

Classical architecture and concrete do not mix

The Ancient Italians well knew the violence of nature. They may not have known about tectonic plates or the geological fault that runs across the centre of Italy through Dalmatia, Turkey and into Iran. But they saw many a fine Roman building in ruins, and knew that unless their churches and cathedrals, towers and palaces were anchored firmly to the ground and able to withstand huge lateral forces, they would crack and collapse whenever the ground moved.

The earthquake that devastated Assisi at the weekend is a tragedy not only for the relatives of the victims and for those who lost their homes but for Christians and art lovers around the world. The damage to the 13th-century basilica has endangered the masterpieces by Giotto, Cimabue, Cavallini and other painters who laid the foundations of Western art. Luckily most of Giotto's 28 frescoes appear to have survived; but art restorers now face a mammoth task to piece together the myriad fragments strewn across the damaged buildings.

The Italian Government has set aside \$500 million to help the stricken area. But as Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, admitted, far more will be needed. Restoration of the art and ancient buildings alone will cost at least that much. Art lovers, foundations and Italy's leading companies are ready to help. But some have added a condition that does not augur well for swift action. In view of the State's incompetence verging on outright criminality in administering the funds collected to make good the damage after the Friuli earthquake in 1976, companies are insisting that they will contribute only if they can have a hand in the running of the restoration programme. Otherwise, they say, inertia, squabbling and even

embezzlement will ensure that neither the homeless are housed nor the art conserved.

Other recriminations are likely to follow. Experts are already accusing the Government of failing to pass on warnings of seismologists. More controversial is the accusation that modern restoration is responsible for much of the damage and may have put other historic buildings at risk, including the great dome of Brunelleschi's cathedral in Florence. Experts have condemned the use of reinforced concrete in place of wooden beams and joints as this changes the structure's ductility and stiffness. It is simply incompatible with older materials. They point out that earthquake damage is unpredictable, and depends on local site conditions: how much soil conditions amplify or attenuate vibrations, and how much later alterations have destroyed a building's original organic unity.

Italy, on the whole, has a good conservation record, although perhaps too keen to follow the latest fashion in engineering techniques. Rome is host to the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property. The important 1964 Unesco charter on restoration guidelines was drafted in Venice and the two main conservation principles — the minimum amount of intervention and the maximum reversibility — are now generally accepted. They should be the basis for the painstaking inspection that must now be made of the damaged buildings in the Assisi region and those where inappropriate restoration might have endangered the heritage. The architects of those buildings that have not collapsed must have got something right for some reason. To ignore their materials and designs would be foolish indeed.

NOTHING SACRED

Churches, sadly, must learn to protect themselves

Those dedicated to the salvation of souls have, alas, increasing reason to concentrate on their own protection. The theft from St Juliot's Church near Boscawen in north Cornwall has attracted considerable attention because of the connection that particular place has to Thomas Hardy. Without this distinctive literary link, the attack might have passed barely noted and unreported. There have been 20 such assaults in Cornwall alone recently. Across Britain, one in three churches annually will witness some form of arson, theft or vandalism.

This incident was typical of the wider pattern. The church was unlocked and unattended at the moment of violation. The prospect of an arrest appears slim. The church and community have been devastated by a crime so distasteful that most people find it incomprehensible.

The cost of all this is — in several senses — considerable. The ordinary church can afford some insurance but normally only enough to replace a stolen chalice with an expensive reproduction. An enormous slice of our national heritage is at risk. Although most thefts are considered "opportunistic", there is increasing evidence of international trade in religious artefacts. More churches, especially in rural areas,

will be forced to follow the established trend and lock their doors to outsiders. Spiritual and cultural life will suffer as a consequence.

The primary problem here is the behaviour of man and the courts treat should such crimes with unusual severity. Distasteful as it undoubtedly is, however, modern churches must change their arrangements to guard themselves as best they can. The typical parish church would like to remain both open and secure. This requires substantial organisation. Items of value must, unfortunately, be locked away but that should not trouble visitors. Some security equipment can be used but a site of worship should not seek to cover itself in cameras like a contemporary shopping centre.

The best remedy also lies with man not modernity. A number of "church watch" schemes have been established, modelled on the neighbourhood watch programmes. The presence of even a solitary volunteer can have a dramatic impact on the crime rate. The operation of such a rota does create a considerable strain especially in remote locations. It also recalls the original purpose and practice of churchwardens. Until this century, their leading task was to preserve the sanctity of all moveable property within churches. Only after that role appeared redundant did this body take on rather broader ecclesiastical duties. It is a sad reflection of our times that such a spiritual security squad requires reinvention.

Right of under-25s to minimum wage

From the Director of the Low Pay Unit

Sir, There is no logical reason for exempting the under-25s from the national minimum wage (repealed September 25 and 26).

Such a move is out of line with the British Chamber of Commerce survey on minimum wages, published in the same week as your *Spectator*, showing that a majority (61 per cent) believed that 18 would be the most appropriate age at which to introduce it and that 42 per cent preferred 21.

Despite the DTI argument that a national minimum wage would act as a disincentive to young people to stay in education and training, we believe that it would encourage employers to invest in training young people instead of using them as substitutes for cheap labour.

The DTI also argues that a minimum wage would restrict employment opportunities for young people looking for jobs. This is the "pricing-yourself-out-of-a-job" argument used by the previous Government to justify the abolition of wage protection for the under-21s in 1986.

Since then, young people's pay has sharply fallen compared to the average. In 1987 the lowest-paid men aged 18-20 earned 32 per cent of adult male wages. Ten years later this has fallen to 27 per cent, a loss of £19.22 a week. For the lowest-paid women, the loss is £28 a week. There is no evidence of a commensurate increase in jobs.

Excluding young people from this protection will simply lead to a downward spiral in wages, increasing dependency and decreasing mobility, thus cutting opportunities to find employment. The evidence was as clear in 1986 as it is now: young people need the protection of a minimum wage even more than other workers because they are more vulnerable to exploitation.

Yours etc,
BHAKTI PATEL,
Director,
Low Pay Unit,
21/29 Amwell Street, EC1,
September 26.

From the Chair of the British Youth Council

Sir, Young people will be appalled to hear that their efforts will count for less in building the new economy. In recent years, Government policies have consistently asked young people to put more in to society but take out less.

The loss of income support for 16 to 17-year-olds, together with the introduction of lower housing benefit rates and jobseekers allowances for under-25s, have penalised the young purely because of their age.

In addition, young people have experienced frozen training allowances, falling grant levels and the introduction of student loans. Their wages have fallen considerably compared to the national average. Between 1985 and 1995 average pay for young people fell by up to 12 per cent of the national wage. At one point, moreover, 16 to 24-year-olds accounted for one in three of those earning £2.50 per hour or less.

Attempts to introduce lower rates or exemptions from the minimum wage on the basis of age rather than experience or contribution spring from ignorance of young people's lives and circumstances. Simply because they are young does not mean they are automatically less well trained, qualified or capable of doing the job than someone else or that they can afford to live on less.

How ironic if the new Government should offer young people a new deal on the one hand while taking it away with the other.

Yours sincerely,
M. WILSON,
Chair,
British Youth Council,
65-69 White Lion Street, N1,
September 25.

Public sector pay

From Lord Caldecote

Sir, Her Majesty's ministers and almost all doctors, nurses and teachers in the public sector are underpaid in relation to the importance of the work they do (letters, September 22 and 23). But it is clearly impracticable to correct this by an immediate increase. Nevertheless, all should be treated alike, and there is no reason why ministers should receive preferential treatment, compared to the other public servants.

The best way to put right this anomaly is to use established pay review bodies, without coercion by the Government, to determine what increase in pay above inflation is required for each category and then to implement it over, say, a three-year period. This procedure would fairly resolve a difficult but pressing problem.

The money must be found, without detriment to the service provided, through an increase in taxation if necessary.

Yours faithfully,
CALDECOTE,
House of Lords,
September 23.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-762 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-762 5000

Integrity of party system questioned

From Mr Gavin Lyall

Sir, I agree with most of Mr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky's argument against proportional representation ("Britain's removal of democracy", September 25), particularly when he warns that "the legal status of parties will need to be embedded in public law". I would far rather that parties, and those who control them (who are not always those who lead them) did not have this extra status.

The first-past-the-post system leaves many voters unrepresented — such as Tories in Scotland — but only in party-defined terms. FR will see that these parties are represented, but at the cost of putting in members for whom almost nobody may have voted: bypassing the voters is an obvious advantage to the parties, less so to the voters.

Since successful companies and other organisations manage without the simplistic choices and sudden reversals of the party system, I would like to see formal party structures and dogmas weakened. Here I part company with Mr Pinto-Duschinsky.

He defends general elections as giving voters power to "throw the rascals out". Agreed, but waiting for this surety delays changes and makes them

more abrupt when they come. I would rather throw out general elections altogether. Thus, once members had been elected, they would not face re-election for five years, come what may.

Once election dates were scattered across a five-year calendar, voters could give early warning of discontent by not re-electing members who supported certain policies. This could not be dismissed as a "by-election aberration", because it would be the only sort of election we would have.

Thus we might get, in a country that prides itself on moderation and gradualism, early and gradual changes of policy rather than the melodrama of a single election night. Moreover, it should avoid the virtual paralysis we saw in Government for at least a year prior to the May 1 election.

Such a change would re-empower individual MPs, allowing them to change their minds without "betraying the principles of the party" — a phrase that seems to me as alien to democracy as proportional representation itself.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN LYALL,
14 Provost Road, NW3,
September 25.

Protection of witnesses in rape cases

From Ms Sally Millard

Sir, There are two important grounds for opposing the introduction of screens to protect the witness in a rape case (report, September 18; letters, September 23).

First, introducing a barrier between the main witness and the rest of the court will undermine the ability of the defendant to carry out a thorough cross-examination. It will also prevent the court from being able to place the words of the witness in context.

It is vital that both the defendant and the jury are able to see the expression on the face of the witness when she answers the questions put to her. We all know that it is easier to recognise whether we are being told the truth when we see someone in person than when we talk on the telephone.

Second, it is insulting to rape victims to suggest that they are too weak to face the defendant in court and put their case. Screens are used to protect child witnesses, who are rightly seen as less capable than adults. If we accept that women need to be treated like children in court, how long before this principle is extended to other areas of our lives?

Yours faithfully,
SALLY MILLARD,
16 Lingfield Hill,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
September 24.

From Mr Nigel Pascoe, QC

Sir, Chief Superintendent Moss (letter, September 23) is wrong if he thinks that I, or indeed any responsible barrister, hold the slightest brief for bullying cross-examination of witnesses.

I loathe the spectre of traumatised victims and I reject any implication that barristers, in trying to do their duty, do not care, or worse, manoeuvre to cross-examine on past history

without leave. Defence counsel should put their case concisely and leave it. There is absolutely no room for repetition, sarcasm, offensive intonation or irrelevancy.

But that does not mean that cross-examination must be confined arbitrarily to a few cursory questions. There will be cases where, courteously but plainly, an advocate must probe the legitimate issues. That cannot be done always in a few minutes.

Today, judges are much more alive to the interests of the victim, by training and by the effect of public opinion. Let improper cross-examination always be curtailed, but never forget the balance which must be struck where it is one word against another. But I back all possible moves to limit a victim's ordeal.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL PASCOE,
(Chairman,
Bar Public Affairs Committee),
3 Pump Court, EC4,
September 23.

From Ms Sara Hinchliffe

Sir, The argument by Alan Moss of the Police Superintendents Association that the criminal justice system is meant to operate on behalf of victims threatens the very principles of justice.

Justice means weighing competing claims about the truth — and subjecting them to rigorous scrutiny. If the principle of innocence until guilt is proven is to be protected, then complaints must be treated as unproven until the conclusion of the trial.

Yours faithfully,
SARA HINCHLIFFE,
Graduate Research Centre
in the Social Sciences,
University of Sussex,
Falmer, Brighton, Sussex,
September 23.

Funding of ITV

From the Chief Executive of the Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television

Sir, In his article "Paying the price of the TV revolution" (September 22), Melvyn Bragg argues that ITV is facing imminent decline because of intensifying competition and the strain of its programme obligations. He wants ITV's self-imposed bid payments to the Treasury (now under review) to be reduced and he wants the other commercial channels to make up the difference.

Lamenting the end of the commercial monopoly which made ITV "rich and uniquely privileged", he overlooks its growth since then. In 1993, the first year of the new licences, its profits were £185 million. Last year they had soared to £432 million. Yorkshire Television, one of the highest bidders, saw its share value rise over those four years from £55 million to £700 million. Far from a bleak future being foretold by the "logic of the graphs", there has been a continuing appetite for takeovers in the sector by owners who are renowned for their commercial acumen.

ITV has the overriding responsibility to produce profits for its shareholders,

subject to regulation. That — not mere access to the airwaves — is the privilege for which it pays the Treasury. Additional taxation on other channels, including Channel 4 or the BBC (which Mr Bragg suggested to the recent Royal Television Society Convention at Cambridge) would impact directly on the viewing public who would pay the real price through reduced programme range and quality.

The final proposition, that ITV is the beacon for British television, is extraordinary: a more detached observer might be forgiven for detecting a narrowing of range, with Mr Bragg's own excellent *South Bank Show* now clinging to the margins of the schedule. A strong, committed public service sector, free from shareholder pressure, is an essential guarantee of choice and quality in the future. This exists in the shape of the BBC and Channel 4. As for ITV, it is still highly profitable and needs no subsidy to remain so.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WOODWARD,
Chief Executive,
Producers Alliance for
Cinema and Television,
45 Mortimer Street, W1,
September 25.

Smoke signals

From Dr Mary Webb

Sir, I was dismayed to see the prominence you gave to the picture of the models Kate Moss and Jade Jagger both smoking cigarettes (September 27).

The effect of this photograph will be to endorse to many teenagers that cigarettes are fashion accessories, and will probably damage the efforts being made by health promotion teams to decrease smoking in this age group.

Yours faithfully,
MARY WEBB,
Pictor House,
Llanblethian,
Cowbridge, South Glamorgan,
September 27.

Drink and health

From Mr Jon Wynne-Tyson

Sir, Alcohol's principal victims are not those who choose to risk their own health by taking a drink that suppresses the need for the moderation that Dr Stuttaford advocates (letters, September 20, 25), but broken families, the accident victims seen daily in every major casualty department, and the millions who suffer from the crimes, carelessness and quelled conscience of that vast spread of humanity that does not subscribe to his general rules for civilised social drinking.

Yours sincerely,
JON WYNNE-TYSON,
Paddocks, Day's Lane,
Fontwell, Arundel, West Sussex,
September 25.

Red Cross plan for 'neutral' emblem

From the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

Sir, Further to your report (September 22; latest editions: letter, September 29) that the International Red Cross may scrap its emblem and replace it with a "culturally neutral" diamond logo, it is important to be clear about the issues involved.

The red cross and red crescent are currently used around the world both as a protective symbol in wartime and as the identifying emblems of national and international humanitarian organisations. Tragically, in many of today's conflicts the emblems are neither understood nor respected.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement will shortly be considering six different proposals to address these issues. These include proposals to introduce a new neutral, protective emblem for use in time of armed conflict, and to permit the recognition of national organisations using other identifying emblems. The objectives are clear: to ensure the best possible protection for the innocent victims of war and to ensure that the international movement, based on the worldwide value of humanity, is truly universal.

Any solution must clearly take account of the emblems currently in use. There is no plan to end the use of the emblem or name of the red cross or the red crescent by the humanitarian organisations of our movement. The red cross is an emblem which I, and the ICRC delegates working around the world to protect victims of armed conflict, wear with pride.

Yours sincerely,
CORNELIO SOMMARUGA,
President, International
Committee of the Red Cross,
19 Avenue de la Paix,
CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland,
September 26.

A-level lit crit

From Miss Angela Huth

Sir, In his letter of September 24 supporting the current procedure of going into A-level English exams armed with the relevant texts, Mr A. C. Barnard referred to the "memorising of quotations as a 'cumbersome inhibition'" (see also letters, August 20, 29; September 12, 17, 24). It was no such thing in my day, when this dubious new method would have caused astonishment.

Surely students taking A-level English still want to learn passages by heart: after all, it's generally believed we remember best what we learn when we are young.

As one who loved the old-fashioned business of memorising, I can only hope the current method of taking-the-text-in does not mean future generations of students will be encouraged to forgo that inestimable pleasure.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA HUTH,
Pulsons End,
Pulsons Lane, Headington, Oxford,
September 25.

From Dr James Roberts

Sir, Is it not time to end the "A-level lit crit" correspondence, which started with a discussion of a candidate's essay on *Candido*?

We should all realise that the educational establishment has arranged everything for the best, in this best of all possible worlds. And at this time of the year there is plenty of work to do in the garden.

Yours,
J. ROBERTS,
Wall Farm,
Elmsent, Ipswich, Suffolk.
jra_software@compuserve.com
September 24.

All pulling together?

From Mr Bill Cairns

Sir, Those "little Englander" readers who have been expressing a slightly hysterical reaction to Scottish and Welsh devolution on your letters pages recently must have derived enormous comfort from the report (September 22) of the sinking of the Oxford and Cambridge University rowing crews in the Rio Negro in Brazil.

From your reference to "England's Olympic fours" it appears that England has no need of devolution to be admitted to the Olympics in its own right.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CAIRNS,
Little Linburn,
Shandon, Dunbartonshire,
cairnsbrow@aol.com
September 23.

Giving of their best

From Mr David Townley

Sir, Sporting effort is often measured in percentages these days, both by participants and commentators — 110 per cent, 150 per cent and 200 per cent being the most common.

My own favourite is 100 per cent but this now sounds rather as if one is swinging the lead.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TOWNLEY,
92 Fir Tree Road,
Banstead, Surrey,
September 29.

Your team can win you £1,000 in a month

The story so far

At last, a smile on your face! Of course, it's been a good week for us Leeds supporters. I didn't know you supported Leeds. I didn't until I signed Molenaar and Martyn the other week. It's amazing how your loyalties can change, I'll admit. And my mother was born in a house that was knocked down to build the Revie Stand at Elland Road. Fascinating. But I seem to remember that you weren't too happy with Molenaar and Martyn a fortnight ago. A fortnight is a long time in football. I see you're learning the jargon... Most certainly, Brian. But about Leeds: our defence is getting back to basics; two clean sheets in four days, an away win and a home victory over the old enemy... How long have you been a Leeds supporter, again? ... and Molenaar rose above the Southampton defence on Wednesday to net a priceless four-pointer. If only I could have had David Wetherall in the team as well! Not more than two players from any one club, you know. By the way, did you take my advice about transferring players out before difficult games? Fortunately not. I forgot. So Leboeuf was a net gain this week, and I kept the Leeds lads in even though we were playing Manchester United. If I'd remembered your advice, I might have rested them for a week. What faith you have in your team. Don't forget about revaluation, though. Eh? Revaluation? What's that? Your scouting network seems to have let you down, old chap. Some players' prices are changing, to reflect what's been going on out in the real world. Fortunately, there's a guide to revaluation on the opposite page. So I'll probably find that some of my ducking and diving on the transfer market will have paid off with vastly inflated valuations. Just like Barry Fry. Sort of, perhaps you should do some victory runs up and down the touchline the way he does. Hang on a minute, though — if my players' values go up, doesn't that mean I'm over my £35 million budget? Don't worry — the price you paid for them is what counts. And the value of players can go down as well as up, you'll find, but you've got until midnight tonight to buy and sell at the old prices. Your man Babayaro, who hasn't played a game for Chelsea yet, is a good example. You could sell him today, before half-a-million is knocked off his value. But when he starts playing, his value might jump again. What was it I said about faith in your team?

This week 70 players are revalued in ITF. Also the new Faxback service showing your team's up-to-date progress is in operation

THE REVALUATION of Interactive Team Football players, another innovation, starts this week. On the player lists on page 23 you will see that players' costs (fourth column) have sometimes gone up or down. The old price is in brackets, the new price in bold type. See opposite page for full details of how this affects your transfers.



From October there will be a separate monthly prize for ITF Internet players. It will be as attractive as the monthly ITF League prize — £1,000, plus football gear and Premiership tickets. The reason for this new prize is that, with transfers on the Internet being free, Internet players if they choose can use all their transfers in one month to improve their positions. The advantage gained from free transfers is only short-term. It would be a big disadvantage in the quest for the ITF League prize of £50,000 to use up all your transfers so early in the season. But Internet players can still compete for the top prize and for the FA Cup league starting in January.

You can still enter ITF via The Times Website (www.the-times.co.uk), via LineOne or via Sky Sports Interactive (Sky Text page 118). Please note that some features such as mini-leagues may not be available on these platforms.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1997-8 matches in the FA Cup, Premier League, FA Cup, Belf's Scottish League Premier Division and Tennants Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS AWARDED	
Goalkeeper	Stops clean sheet (per half) +3 points
Saves goal	+2 points
Saves penalty	+1 point
Full back/Central defender	Keeps clean sheet* +4 points
Striker	Scores goal +1 point
Midfield player	Keeps clean sheet* +3 points
Striker	On winning side +1 point
Striker	Appearance* +1 point
Striker	Scores hat-trick +10 points
Striker	Manager's choice +1 point
Striker	Wins +1 point
Striker	Draws +1 point

POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper	Concedes goal -1 point
Striker	Concedes penalty -1 point
Striker	Own goal -1 point
Striker	Team loses -1 point

* Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points
* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match
* Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1.10 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:
0991 111 333

If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0174-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER ITF

£1,000, a signed Mitre football and a Mitre Sports bag, and tickets to a premier league match of your choice can be won every month, plus the chance to win £10,000 in a separate FA Cup League so enter the ITF now.

The manager of the month can be won by any team, no matter where it is in the overall ITF league. The prize simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one month. If you are a student or a woman (18 or over) you may also enter the appropriate mini-league, while under-18 year olds enter the Youth league. These all carry separate monthly prizes.

By entering the ITF, your team will automatically be entered into a separate FA Cup league. Your players will earn you points for the FA Cup league (Littlewoods FA Cup and Tennants Scottish FA Cup) as well as the main ITF league.

Remember the earlier you register, the more transfers your team will be allocated.

HOW TO ENTER

Entries to ITF via The Times are now by phone only, on

0891 405 011

From the Republic of Ireland only +44 990 100 308

- You must use a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-Tone).
- Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
- Do not spend more than 35 million.
- Do not choose more than two individuals.
- (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one club.
- Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.
- a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.
- b) You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the mini-leagues (women's, students, youth) if appropriate. If so, do so as directed on the telephone.
- c) You must speak the name of your team (no more than 18 characters), your name, address with postcode and your daytime telephone number.
- d) Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score.

A new team will score points on future games. OSE calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost about double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being

more than one manager of the month, the winner will be chosen at random. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a draw will operate.

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE	PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
£50,000 top prize £1,000 monthly prize	Professional players their fantasy team
STUDENTS' LEAGUE	YOUTH LEAGUE
Monthly prize of £1,000 signed football and sports bag	Monthly prize of £1,000 signed football and sports bag
WOMEN'S LEAGUE	
Monthly prize of £1,000 signed football and sports bag	

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1 O'Hodges	228
2 S. Whithfield	225
3 L. Chadleigh	223
4 S. Webb	220
5 H. Irvine	218
6 E. Hughes	215
7 J. Twiss	212
8 L. Hall	210
9 M. Parry	208
10 J. Gardner	205
11 S. Cusack	203
12 B. Sharp	200
13 J. Hilton	198
14 K. McDonald	195
15 J. Morison-Richmond	192
16 P. Johnston	190
17 E. Shaw	188
18 C. Kelly	185

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1 N. Wheatley	242
2 P. Henson	238
3 N. Wheatley	235
4 I. McCall	232
5 D. Harter	228
6 N. Prior	225
7 N. Wheatley	222
8 N. Wheatley	219
9 Z. Teer	216
10 N. Lamb	213
11 J. Gardner	210
12 J. Liveridge	207
13 R. Wood	204
14 M. Matthews	201
15 S. Jobson	198
16 S. Cris	195
17 M. Corbridge	192
18 D. Dwyer	189
19 D. Clement	186

YOUTH LEAGUE

1 T. Langran	226
2 S. Bantfield	223
3 D. John	220
4 E. Swales	217
5 R. Alden	214
6 R. Wicks	211
7 S. Bird	208
8 D. Lewis	205
9 A. Hibbard	202
10 B. Wilson	199
11 J. Gardner	196
12 D. Benumant	193
13 D. Dodds	190
14 N. Hodge	187
15 C. Wheaton	184
16 S. Sugini	181
17 L. Nook	178
18 A. Wood	175
19 M. McPhillips	172

ITF LEAGUE

1 Peter McDermott	282
2 Bruce Trudgill	279
3 Mrs Sheila Borland	276
4 Mike Scannlan	273
5 W. Goody	270
6 Mr T. Richards	267
7 S. Legg	264
8 Mr M. Jones	261
9 K. Farrah	258
10 Mr I. Smith	255
11 D. Hughes	252
12 Mr S. Jones	249
13 D. Hughes	246
14 Mr S. Jones	243
15 D. Hughes	240
16 G. Kibbey	237
17 D. Hughes	234
18 Mr M. Jones	231
19 Dave D. Brave	228
20 R. Calder	225
21 J. W. Goody	222
22 V. Cox	219
23 M. Jones	216
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Guide to players, transfers and revaluations

From today a number of ITF players have new values, offering intriguing possibilities for skilful transfers



SKY sports
interactive

A new addition to Interactive Team Football is player revaluation, which will take place four times during the season, and will reflect changes to the market values of certain players as a result of injuries, loss of form, a consistent scoring streak or a run of shut-outs.

The first revaluation comes into force at midnight tonight. Until then, players affected can be transferred in and out at their original valuations. After that, the new prices (shown in brackets in the lists below) come into force. Further revaluations will take place every two months up to and including the end of March.

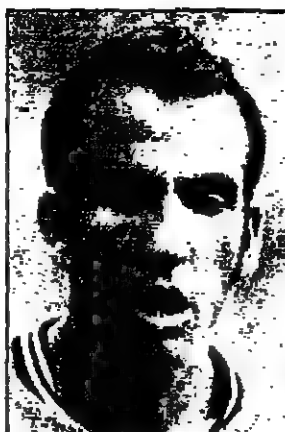
A rise in the price of a player

in your existing team, which raises the total value of the squad over the £35 million limit, does not mean that you will have to make transfers to restore the balance. In effect, your sound judgment of a player has earned you the right to spend more of your chairman's money. However, a player transferring out of your team can only command the new price.

In other words, if Regi Blinker, currently valued at £1.5 million, is in your team, you can sell him tomorrow for £3 million and — here's the good part — buy a player of equivalent value who might previously have been out of your price range. Conversely, if you paid £2.5 million for his Celtic team-mate Tommy Johnson, you will get £1 million less if you sell him after midnight tonight.

Individuals who have started the season well, like Marco Negri of Rangers, who will cost £3 million more tomorrow than he does today, find their increased valuations reflecting their good form, but the most startling rises in market value have occurred in players with teams whose results have generally exceeded

Words: Nick Szczepanik



and expectations. Blackburn Rovers are a good example: their four listed midfield players have each gone up in value by £500,000, while Chris Sutton, whose goalscoring form has returned him to the fringes of the England squad, has doubled in value from £3 million to £6 million.

Where expectations have not been met, however, the fluctuations can be even more drastic. Paolo Di Canio was rated at £6.5 million on the threshold of a season that promised much for the white-booted one and for Sheffield Wednesday, contenders for a European place last season. Di Canio's stock has fallen by £3.5 million: the largest change in any valuation.



Above left: Di Canio, who has lost value. Above: Negri, worth £3 million more

IN			
20403	Damen Barnard	Barnsley	£1.0m
22003	Rob Jones	Liverpool	£3.0m
22903	Steve Carr	Tottenham	£2.0m
30204	Steve Bould	Arsenal	£3.0m
32704	Ken Monkou	Southampton	£1.5m
42705	Carlisle Palmer	Southampton	£1.5m
50704	Simon Donnelly	Celtic	£4.5m
50705	Henrik Larsson	Celtic	£4.5m
51104	Dean Burton	Derby	£1.5m

OUT			
41302	Derek Fleming	Dunfermline	
50701	Jorge Cadete	Celtic	

MOVED			
42904	Michael Hughes	Wimbledon	£1.5m
transferred from West Ham (price revalued to £2.0m)			

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

EACH TEAM that was entered by August 9 was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-Tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS cost 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

FULL PLAYERS LISTS INCLUDING OCTOBER REVALUATIONS, WITH OLD PRICES IN BRACKETS. NEW PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM MIDNIGHT TONIGHT

Code	Name	Team	Cost (Old)	Cost (New)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	-3	-11	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	8	27	
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	-2	14	
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	-4	-16	
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn	3.50	9	18	
10601	K Brannagan	Bolton	1.50	2	14	
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0	
10801	E De Geoy	Chelsea	3.00	5	17	
10901	S Ogrtovic	Coventry	1.50	9	16	
11001	C Nash	C Palace	0.25 (1.00)	0	0	
11002	K Miller	C Palace	2.00	-1	17	
11101	M Poom	Derby	1.50	9	25	
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee U	2.00 (3.00)	0	-12	
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	3	2	
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	-1	
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	1.50	8	22	
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50 (1.00)	0	0	
11701	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-7	
11801	N Martyn	Leeds Utd	3.50	16	18	
11901	K Kallouf	Leicester	2.50 (2.00)	10	41	
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	5	19	
12101	P Schmeichel	Man Utd	5.00	-1	48	
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0	
12301	S Glenn	Newcastle	4.00	10	24	
12401	A Gorm	Rangers	5.00	0	3	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield W	2.00 (2.50)	0	-11	
12701	M Taylor	Southampton	0.50 (1.50)	0	0	
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	3	-1	
12901	I Walker	Tottenham	3.00	9	25	
12901	L Mikosko	West Ham	2.00	-1	9	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	10	17	
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	1	4	
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	1	14	
20301	E Pett	Arsenal	3.00 (2.50)	4	5	
20302	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	1	10	
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	-3	5	
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50	-2	5	
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	-3	2	
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	0	-2	
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	0	
20502	J Kenne	Blackburn	2.50 (2.00)	3	15	
20503	P Valery	Blackburn	2.50 (2.00)	1	9	
20601	N Cox	Bolton	2.00	0	3	
21901	M Whitton	Bolton	1.50	-1	8	
20602	R Elliott	Bolton	2.00	0	4	
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	7	10	
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50	0	0	
20703	J McInnes	Celtic	3.00	1	3	
20801	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	4	18	
20802	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.00 (2.50)	0	0	
20803	C Babayaro	Chelsea	1.00	4	5	
20901	D Burrows	Coventry	1.00	0	0	
20902	B Burrows	Coventry	1.00	4	6	
20903	M Hall	Coventry	1.00	4	6	
21001	D Gordon	C Palace	1.50	3	11	
21002	M Edworthy	C Palace	1.00	-1	4	
21003	K Muscat	C Palace	1.00	-3	5	
21101	C Powell	Derby	1.50	5	14	
21102	D Yates	Derby	1.00	0	0	
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	0	-5	
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	-1	-2	
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	1	1	
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.00	0	0	
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	6	
21801	G Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	9	6	
21802	D Robertson	Leeds Utd	2.50	10	7	
21902	S Guppy	Leicester	1.50	5	27	
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	4.00	4	9	
22002	J McAteer	Man Utd	4.00	-2	20	
22101	D Irwin	Man Utd	3.50	-1	18	
22102	G Neville	Man Utd	3.50	-1	10	
22103	P Neville	Man Utd	3.00	4	13	
22201	S Watson	Newcastle	2.00	1	9	
22302	W Barton	Newcastle	2.00 (1.50)	2	15	
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle	3.00	0	6	
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle	3.00	4	10	
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	8	12	
22402	S Stensness	Rangers	2.00 (2.50)	-8	-18	
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield W	2.00 (2.50)	-5	-9	
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield W	2.00	0	0	
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	0.75	-4	-5	
22702	F Benall	Southampton	0.75	0	0	
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	0	
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham	2.00 (1.00)	0	1	
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham	3.00	0	0	
22901	J Dicks	West Ham	1.50	1	1	
22902	A Impey	West Ham	2.00	1	2	
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	5	3	
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	4	1	
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	4	1	
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-11	
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.50	4	4	
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0	0	
30203	G Grimsdell	Arsenal	2.00	4	12	
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	-5	0	
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.50	-3	7	
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	-5	-11	
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	-5	-11	
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	-4	-2	
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn	3.00	4	13	
30504	S Hendrie	Blackburn	2.50 (2.00)	4	5	
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn	2.00	0	0	
30601	G Taggart	Bolton	1.50	-1	4	
30602	G Bergeson	Bolton	1.00	-2	5	
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton	1.00	0	0	
30604	M Fish	Bolton	1.50	0	0	
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00 (3.00)	0	0	
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	2	
30703	A Stubbie	Celtic	3.00	1	6	
30704	M Rieple	Celtic	3.00	1	1	
30801	F Lebonet	Chelsea	3.00	4	10	
30802	M Durberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	8	
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	8	
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	3	3	
30901	L Delfis	Coventry	1.50	0	0	
30902	R Shaw	Coventry	1.50	4	8	
30903	P Williams	Coventry	1.50	-1	-1	
31001	A Roberts	C Palace	1.50	-1	4	
31002	A Linighan	C Palace	0.75	-1	4	
31003	D Tuttle	C Palace	0.75	0	0	
31101	I Stimate	Derby	2.50	5	6	
31102	J Laurens	Derby	1.50	9	12	
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00 (3.00)	-1	-4	
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	-1	-2	
31401	S Bille	Everton	2.50 (3.00)	-3	-5	
31402	D Wilson	Everton	2.00	-2	-3	
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00 (1.50)	9	16	
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00 (1.50)	0	4	
31701	D Weatherall	Leeds Utd	2.00	13	12	
31802	G Halls	Leeds Utd	2.00	9	7	
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	10	8	
31804	L Redebe	Leeds Utd	1.50	5	2	
31901	M Elliott	Leicester	3.00	4	28	
31902	P Kaarmark	Leicester	2.00	4	21	
31903	S Walsh	Leicester	1.50	0	25	
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	5	
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	
32003	S Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	4	8	
32051	H Berg	Man Utd	3.50 (3.00)	-2	18	
32101	D May	Man Utd	3.50	0	0	
32102	G Pallister	Man Utd	3.50	-1	22	
32201	P Albert	Newcastle	3.00	5	13	
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle	3.00	5	10	
32303	S Hovey	Newcastle	2.00	-1	0	
32304	A Philson	Newcastle	3.00	5	8	
32401	S Ponnill	Rangers	3.50	8	11	
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	4	0	
32403	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	0	
32501	D Walker	Sheffield W	2.00 (2.50)	-5	-4	
32502	J Newcombe	Sheffield W	2.00 (2.50)	-2	0	
32503	P Asherton	Sheffield W	2.00 (2.50)	0	-8	
32701	R Oryden	Southampton	1.00	-5	-5	
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	-4	-5	
32801	S McCuskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	0	
32802	S Campbell	Tottenham	3.00	4	6	
32803	J Scales	Tottenham	2.50	0	6	
32804	R Vega	Tottenham	2.00	4	0	
32901	C Calderwood	Tottenham	2.00	0	9	
32902	R Ferdinand	West Ham	2.50	-3	-2	
32903	R Hall	West Ham	2.00	0	0	
33103	D Unsworth	West Ham	2.00	-3	-3	
33203	S Potts	West Ham	1.50	0	1	
33204	I Pearce	West Ham	2.00	-3	-3	
33301	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	5	6	
33302	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	5	5	
40701	E Jones	Aberdeen	2.00 (3.00)	1	5	
40702	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	1	3	
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	13	29	
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	4	15	
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00 (2.50)	0	1	
40204	R Parfior	Arsenal	2.50	4	19	
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50	2	5	
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00 (4.00)	2	17	
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	4	21	
40401	N Radford	Barnsley	3.00	2	17	
40402	E Thriller	Barnsley	2.00	4	13	
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	1	4	
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	1	7	
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn	3.00 (2.50)	-2	13	
40502	B McKelvey	Blackburn	3.00 (2.50)	0	7	
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn	3.00 (2.50)	2	3	
40504	G Filtrillo	Blackburn	3.00 (2.50)	3	14	
40601	A Thompson	Bolton	2.00	0	9	
40602	S Sellers	Bolton	2.00	0	9	
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton	2.00	1	8	
40604	M Johansen	Bolton	2.00	3	3	
40805	J Pollock	Bolton	2.00	2	11	
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	1	10	
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	4	6	
42503	R Binkley	Celtic	3.00 (1.50)	0	4	
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	2	16	
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	4.00	3	18	
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	2	15	
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50 (2.50)	0	0	
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00 (2.00)	7	24	
40901	G McAllister	Coventry	2.50	3	11	
40902	T Solihredt	Coventry	1.50	0	11	
40903	J Salako	Coventry	1.50	0	11	
41002	S Rodgers	C Palace	1.00	0	7	
41003	D Pitcher	C Palace	0.25	0	0	
41004	F Warburton	C Palace	1.50	4	16	
41005	A Lombardo	C Palace	3.00 (2.50)	2	17	
41101	A Asanovic	Derby	2.50	0	2	
41102	S Eranio	Derby	2.50	8	14	
41103	D Powell	Derby	1.50	0	1	
41104	C Dailly	Derby	1.50	4	11	
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby	1.00	0	7	
41106	J Hunt	Derby	1.00	1	12	
41201	R Winters	Dundee Utd	3.50	1	10	
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	2.00	1	14	
41302	D Speed	Dunfermline	1.50	0	1	
41401	G Fleming	Everton	3.50	2	19	
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0	
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	4	
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	0	8	
41501	N McCann	Hearts	2.50	3	15	
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0	1	
41602	B Lavery	Hibernian	2.00	1	13	
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0	</

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30 1997

5th

Brussels gives backing to system of tied pubs



Sir Michael Angus: benefits

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday gave its blessing to Britain's system of tied pubs, ruling that Whitbread was entitled to charge its tenants more than the standard price for its beer because it provided them with other benefits.

Lessees of brewery-owned pubs have long been arguing that the higher rates they are charged for beer, compared with prices for free house owners, amount to a breach of the Treaty of Rome. However, the Commission said it had concluded that tenants of Whitbread, whose executive chairman is Sir Michael Angus, "benefit from lower rents, professional assistance, capital investment and bulk purchasing rebates that are not readily available to these free traders and compensate more or less for the price differential."

It went on: "In those circumstances, the Commission considers that the tied lessees can compete on a level-playing field with their 'free-trading' competitors, and that an exemption consequently seems acceptable." Whitbread operates 2,130 "tenanted" pubs out of 5,000. "Our finding in the case of Whitbread is just the first to emerge," said a Commission official in Brussels. "We have found that although lessees tied to Whitbread are bound by certain rules governing their pub leases, other aspects more than compensate. If we find in the case of other breweries that there is sufficient compensation for higher beer prices, then it follows that we will clear them as well."

Tenants and other interested parties have a month to give their views before the Commission gives its final ruling. Officials pointed out that the Commission was not aiming to apply the same scrutiny to leases on pubs owned by small and regional breweries because the smaller scale meant that these fall outside the scope of EU competition law.

The Campaign for Real Ale welcomed this, saying: "Maintaining ties for medium and small-sized breweries is the only possible way for them to compete in the market." The Commission is assessing the lease arrangements of other big brewers, including Scottish & Newcastle and Bass. In addition, it is looking at pub estates run by Innkeeper Pub Company and Allied Domecq Retailing.



FTSE 100	5220.3	(-6.0)
FTSE All share	2444.60	(-1.28)
1000 shares	7787.21	(-7.50)
New York	7932.88	(+16.70)
Dow Jones	947.28	(+2.16)
S&P Composite		
Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	5.50%	(100%)
Yield	6.30%	(6.30%)
3-mth Interbank	7.1%	(7.1%)
Life long gilt	11.8%	(11.8%)
Future (Dec)		
New York	1.8145	(1.8082)
London	1.8165	(1.8055)
DM	2.8429	(2.8337)
FF	9.5401	(9.5099)
SP	2.3473	(2.3389)
Yen	165.58	(164.41)
£ Index	100.3	(99.7)
Tokyo close Yen	121.30	
Short 15-day (Dec)	\$19.50	(\$19.00)
London close	\$327.25	(\$327.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Millions made on gilts before EMU report

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

CITY firms earned millions of pounds in profits in an unusually heavy bout of trading in gilt futures on the day before Friday morning's report that the Cabinet was adopting a more positive stance on membership of a single currency.

Several investment banks were reported to have been heavy buyers of gilt futures in the trading pit at Life, the London International Financial Futures Exchange, on Thursday afternoon. Goldman Sachs was the name which featured most in City gossip.

The sterling gilt future had been gently sliding during the Thursday afternoon session but then repeated, heavy buy orders came in, pushing the contract's price up by a full point by the end of trading.

The price climbed further on Friday in response to a report in the *Financial Times*, denied by the Treasury, that the Government was on the point of adopting a much more positive approach to economic and monetary union. The report started a dramatic sell-off in sterling, a rally in the gilt market and a surge in the stock market.

As early as Wednesday, a perception was emerging that the Government was inching towards a more positive EMU policy. Tony Blair held a breakfast meeting with business leaders and was reported to have been distinctly warmer in his tone on EMU. But it was the FT story, subsequently denied by

both Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, which set the markets alight.

It is widely assumed that the suggestion of a shift in government EMU policy was leaked to the FT by close aides of Mr Brown. They figured heavily in last night's Scottish Television documentary on the election campaign, among them Sue Nye, head of Mr Brown's private office.

She is married to Gavyn Davies, chief economist at Goldman Sachs. The investment bank has often found itself under unusual scrutiny



Life trading surged

from City gossip because of the close ties Mr Davies has with the Government. Goldman Sachs is highly sensitive to Mr Davies's connections and he operates within strictly enforced Chinese walls.

Life confirmed that Thursday was an unusually busy day in the gilt futures pit with 116,592 contracts traded compared with a daily average in August of 75,000 contracts. Friday was even busier with 193,343 traded.

Traders in the pit estimated that Goldman Sachs may have bought between 12,000 and 15,000 lots, worth between £600 million and £700 million. They calculated that, if 15,000 lots had been bought at Thursday's lowest levels and sold at Friday's peaks, the profit would have been more than £1 million.

Goldman Sachs yesterday declined to comment. However, economists at the bank have been arguing for some time that the spread between gilt futures and German bund futures would narrow and it appears that its activity on Thursday was the kind of convergence play that it had been recommending to its clients.

Their futures traders have a reputation for making very large bets in the futures markets but the sheer size of its orders on Thursday was a talking point on the floor of Life. One trader said: "The timing, just before the FT report, was breathtaking. They must be brilliant."



Paper millionaires: John Piel, left, Newsquest's finance director, and Jim Brown

Publisher promises further savings

By RAY SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

NEWSQUEST, the regional newspaper group, is promising significant savings still to come at Westminster Press (WP), the group acquired from Pearson last year.

Jim Brown, chairman of Newsquest, said WP, bought for £296 million, had been "a great buy for us". Yesterday Newsquest published its prospectus for a Stock Exchange flotation designed to raise £100 million. The indicative price range of 250p to 290p a share values Newsquest at £540 million at the mid-point.

The company has 173 paid-for and free titles. It is the largest publisher of free newspapers in the UK, with a total distribution and circulation of 5.2 million copies per issue.

Mr Brown said Newsquest had to act urgently to tackle the problems of WP. "We had to address the circulation problem and fix it damned quickly too," he said, adding that margins at WP will soon be higher than in the rest of the group.

Pro forma figures for the year to December 1997 show operating profit of £67.3 million on turnover of £277.1 million. The figures take account of the planned disposal of Wessex Newspapers and the costs of the offer.

Mr Brown is one of six top managers who will become paper millionaires next month if the float goes ahead on schedule. The six will hold 4 to 5 per cent of the company. KKR and Cinvea will reduce their stakes to 43 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. New shareholders will have about 37 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

Spending boom is poised to continue

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMER credit surged again in August, raising fears that the high street spending boom will last well into the autumn. The latest monetary statistics also pointed to strong spending growth, while house prices continue to rise sharply.

Net consumer credit rose £1.03 billion in August compared with £501 million in July but at a similar level to August 1996. M0, the measure of narrow money supply, accelerated from an annual rate of 5 per cent in August to 6.1 per cent in September — the fastest rate of increase since May.

Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel, said the data was consistent with the view that rates would rise further "as the strength of consumer spending in the second half of the year becomes apparent".

But Simon Briscoe, director of research at Nikko Europe, put some of the consumer credit growth down to the exceptional August car sales and pointed to a decline in the quarterly consumer credit growth rates.

The latest Nationwide house price survey showed prices rising 1.7 per cent between August and September. They are now 12.9 per cent higher than last year. But Nationwide said the strength of the rise could be misleading and the main cause of the rise is the continuing shortage of property.

Separate Bank of England data for August showed gross mortgage lending slipping from £6.91 billion in July to £6.52 billion; net lending fell from £2.29 billion to £2.12 billion.

Asda at odds with Safeway

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DIVISIONS between Safeway and Asda over how their £9 billion merger would have worked if it had not been aborted emerged yesterday with sources at Asda claiming the deal would have given their company the upper hand.

Asda said all stores would have traded under the Asda name, with the headquarters for the business at its base in Leeds. It would also have been run by Allan Leighton, Asda chief executive. Archie Norman, chairman of Asda, and David Webster, chairman of Safeway,

would have acted as joint chairmen of the group and Colin Smith, chief executive of Safeway, would have been either deputy chairman or group finance director.

Safeway dismissed this, saying

Left on the shelf... Page 29

that none of the issues had been discussed and that, presented this way, the deal "would be a takeover without a premium".

Asda said it intended to go it alone as the deal was now "dead".

because of the increased risk of a lengthy Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. Safeway said it was disappointed not to have been able to take the merger forward, considering it a "good idea".

Safeway insisted that it was not a takeover target and denied rumours of talks with Marks & Spencer or any other potential buyer. Its shares rose 9.1p to 405.1p with analysts saying it was a bid target. It is understood that Safeway is looking at potential acquisitions. Meanwhile, shares in Wm Morrison, the supermarket group, rose 12p to 210p on bid speculation.

Midland fined £150,000

By CAROLINE MERRILL

MIDLAND BANK has been fined £150,000 by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the investment regulator, over pensions mis-selling.

The high street bank, which must also pay costs of £70,708, wrongly advised some customers to leave their company pension scheme and take out a personal pension.

Tony Ashford, Midland deputy managing director, said: "We are disappointed about the fine. We stopped doing transfer business in 1993. With hindsight we should

have gone into more detail about the clients' circumstances."

Midland estimates that it will cost about £45 million to compensate customers it has mis-sold a personal pension. The bank said it had already completed three-quarters of its review of pension transfer cases and offered compensation to 865 of its 1,130 "priority" customers.

The fine marks the end of a complete review by Imro of the pensions transfer business. Six Imro-regulated firms have been fined a total of £880,000. The biggest fines have been levied against Lloyds Bank, at £225,000, and

Godwins, at £200,000. The review aimed to find companies that had encouraged employees to transfer erroneously out of their company schemes in to personal pensions.

The end of Imro's review comes as the Personal Investment Authority, the retail regulator, steps up pressure on companies that are being slow to sort out their pensions compensation cases.

It has already fined three companies over their progress and is poised to fine at least a further five. Those that have been fined by Imro will not escape a further fine from the PIA.

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Leicester City plans £24m float

Leicester City yesterday became the latest Premiership football club to announce a stock market flotation, with a deal that will value it at about £24 million.

The club will reverse into Soccer Investments, the shell company floated this year for the purpose of taking over a Premiership club. It will offer 31.38 shares for each Leicester share, valued at 110p. £1 will also put £1 million into the club to buy players, increase its stadium capacity and improve commercial operations.

The deal follows the recent flotations of Nottingham Forest, Chester United and Newcastle United.

Tempus, page 28
Leicester float, page 44

Albany sold

Albany Life, one of the pension companies named and shamed by Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has been bought from its parent, MetLife, by Canada Life Assurance Company of Toronto. Albany Life, based in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, has 230,000 policyholders in the UK and generated a total net business premium income of £49 million last year. The sale to Canada Life, a mutual, requires regulatory approval. The deal's value was not disclosed.

Capital deal

Capital Radio, the UK's largest commercial radio group, has sold its £2.9 per cent stake in GWR, the rival commercial radio group, for £23.9 million. Capital, which is currently waiting for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to approve its acquisition of Virgin Radio, took 14 million shares in GWR when it sold Merca Sound, Leicester Sound and Radio Trent to the company in 1993. Capital yesterday said that its decision to sell the stake was part of its strategy to focus entirely on wholly-owned radio businesses.

Bearish stock bets fuel \$300m loss for Salomon divisions

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

SALOMON BROTHERS is believed to have incurred losses of \$300 million (£180 million) in its global investment banking and equities divisions for the year ending today. Wall Street analysts say the losses helped to push Salomon into last week's \$9 billion merger with Travelers Group.

Arbitrage traders are said to have lost \$100 million by betting the bank's own money on the merger of British Telecom and MCI earlier this year. A further \$100 million

was lost in derivatives trading. These losses apparently stem from bearish stock bets in the US and Europe. Global investment banking is also said to have lost \$100 million after large-scale expansion of overseas operations.

A Salomon spokesman said overseas operations were profitable but declined to comment further. Salomon as a whole will be profitable but full-year pre-tax profits are expected to be below analysts' forecasts of \$166 million.

Travelers Group, a financial services and insurance company, said it was familiar

with Salomon's financial position and the friendly takeover was on course to be completed by the end of this year.

A spokeswoman said: "We know they are investing internationally and they are stronger in fixed income than in equities. That's why the transaction is such a wonderful fit."

While Salomon employees will make huge profits on their shareholdings as a result of the takeover, their pay will suffer after the drop in profits. Bonuses, which make up the largest chunk of annual incomes, will be set in coming weeks.

It has also emerged that

Deryck Maughan, Salomon chief executive, is set for a sharp drop in his \$10 million pay package. Mr Maughan, who initiated the Travelers deal, is on a profit-sensitive pay scheme. While he received \$10 million last year, the previous two years he received no bonus at all because specific criteria had not been met.

His contract states that Salomon has to top 15 per cent return on equity over the year to be eligible for a bonus. So far this year, Salomon has hovered around 15 per cent.

In a further provision, Salomon also has to at least match

the performance of five rival banks. Their return on equity has been around 20 per cent this year, putting Mr Maughan's bonus further into question.

Accounts of the losses have confirmed Wall Street opinions on which side got the better deal in the takeover. On the day of the announcement, analysts were surprised that

Sandford Weill, the Travelers chief executive known for shrewd dealmaking, had paid \$81 per share when they stood at \$50 ahead of bid rumours. The price looks even more favourable to Salomon now.

Total faces US retaliation over Iran deal

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

TOTAL, the French oil company, faces retaliation from America after signing a \$2 billion deal with Iran in defiance of the 1996 Iran-Libya Sanctions Act which requires the American President to penalise investment in either country.

The French Government warned the US not to attempt to apply the law, after Total and Gazprom of Russia and Petronas of Malaysia, its consortium partners, agreed a contract to expand the vast Iranian South Pars offshore gasfield.

"Our position on any investment in Iranian gas and oilfields is clear: such investments make more resources available for Iran to use in supporting terrorism and pursuing missiles and nuclear weapons," a US state department spokesman said, adding that "appropriate action would be taken".

But France said that "the application of the provisions of this law would constitute a serious precedent in international trade."

One international diplomat in Tehran described the deal

as "a tremendous psychological boost for Iran".

Alfonse d'Amato, US senator and the main author of the sanctions law, said last month that if the deal went ahead he would insist President Clinton punish Total by imposing the harshest retaliation — a ban on the company's sales in the US.

Total insisted the contract was in accordance with French law and UN regulations, and that it did not believe Total's US assets would be affected.

An official of the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) in Tehran said: "It is a very important turning point for us."

"I think it shows that the EU countries and particularly the French are not taking the US foreign policy initiative in terms of the trade relationship with Iran seriously and they know the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act is not a realistic measure."

The European Commission said the clash illustrated the urgent need for Washington to come to an agreement with Europe over US trade laws.



Ron Zeghibe, chief executive of the media agency Maiden Group, raised first-half pre-tax profits by 68 per cent to £4.8 million. The dividend is 2.0p.

Challenge to Ivory fund's directors

BY PAUL DURMAN

COLIN McLEAN, the fund manager whose Scottish Value Trust preys on underperforming investment trusts, is adding to the woes of Ivory & Sime by trying to unseat the directors of the Edinburgh firm's £30 million venture capital fund.

Mr McLean is concerned that Ivory & Sime Enterprise Capital is still making new investments only three years before it is due to be wound up. These have included the latest tranche of Enterprise's £178,000 investment in Ivory & Sime Trustlink, Ivory's loss-making marketing arm.

Scottish Value is using its 27.4 per cent stake in Enterprise to requisition a shareholder meeting to remove Gavin Reed, the trust's chairman, and his fellow directors Michael Brooke and William Thomson. Scottish Value's nominees as replacements include Peter Dicks, formerly of the Abingworth venture capital firm, and James Hambro, of J.O Hambro.

Mr McLean said that he was seeking not to take over management of Enterprise, but to maximise value for shareholders. He said: "There's a long lead-in time for venture capital funds. The shareholders and the board should consider whether they want to carry on making investments now which are not going to come to fruition until after 2000."

In response to past pressure from Scottish Value, Enterprise Capital was already reviewing its future, and intended to make proposals in December. Andy Steel, Enterprise's manager, said: "The board have been acting in good faith and in the best interests of all shareholders." He admitted that Enterprise had made two investments, totalling about £4 million, since a meeting with Mr McLean in July, but said that these had already been in train.

Enterprise shares closed 2p up at 149½p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

New deal simplifies European mergers

COMPANIES pursuing cross-border European mergers stand to save millions in management time and fees as a result of a landmark deal between competition authorities in the UK, France and Germany. A Europe-wide streamlining of the rules could follow the move by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and its French and German counterparts, which turns on the introduction of a common form accepted by all three bodies for mergers that have to be examined in more than one of these countries.

Previously, if a merger was subject to control in several countries, enterprises had to submit different information to the national competition authorities. To reduce this burden, businesses can now submit the same information in all three countries by filling in a two-page form. Companies will be told within a month if further examination is required. Legal experts said companies stood to make considerable savings in management time and fees. The OFT said that the initiative was thought to be the first of its kind between European competition authorities. It hoped that the move would have a knock-on effect throughout the EC.

Oasis in need of Spice

OASIS said yesterday that sales of its autumn ranges have failed to take off in recent weeks because they lack the wild Spice Girls-style items that are selling fast elsewhere. The clothes retailer blamed the warm autumn weather and the aftermath of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, for poor sales, which were flat in the first eight weeks of the second half. Pre-tax profit in the first half was £3.68 million (£5.18 million). The interim dividend is 2.4p (2.1p), payable on November 7.

Unit trust sales slip

UNIT TRUST sales slipped in August, as investors grew nervous about falls in share prices in some world markets. Institutional investors, in particular, steered clear of unit trusts, buying £57 million worth in the month, the lowest level for 18 months. Total sales were £349 million, down from £545 million in July. The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds attributed the fall in sales to the declines in markets such as Japan.

Westminster confident

WESTMINSTER HEALTHCARE shares rose 10p to 293½p after John Lockhart, the chairman, told the annual meeting that there are signs the sector's volume difficulties are easing. However, he added: "Pricing remains a factor and clearly, without a realistic pricing policy, there will be reluctance to undertake any new development of nursing homes... we are encouraged by the start that has been made in the new financial year and look forward to the future with confidence."

Care First resignation

CHAI PATEL, the former chief executive of Care First, the embattled nursing homes group, yesterday resigned as a director from the board. The move came after his resignation as chief executive last month after a personal battle with Keith Bradshaw, the company's chairman. Dr Patel had hoped to gather enough support from shareholders to be reinstated as chief executive, which would have forced Mr Bradshaw to resign, but he abandoned the fight last week.

NatWest's second Rose

NATWEST BANK is to repackage loans worth \$5 billion (£3 billion) into bonds. The securitisation deal will be launched in the name of Rose (Repeat Offering Securitisation Entity) Funding No 2, a special purpose vehicle established by NatWest Markets to issue dollar and sterling denominated floating-rate notes in the Eurobond market. A year ago NatWest first went public with its plans for Rose Funding No 1, a \$5 billion transaction in 11 tranches of floating-rate notes.

Capital and Regional up

CAPITAL AND REGIONAL PROPERTIES raised pre-tax profits from £2.5 million to £3.5 million in the six months to June 24. Earnings rose from 5p to 5.9p out of which an unchanged half-year dividend of 1p will be paid. Rental income rose from £7.9 million to £11.4 million. The group recently acquired five shopping centres for £147 million, increasing its portfolio to nine. Retail now accounts for 90 per cent of the group's portfolio. The shares rose 2½p to 255p.

Ricardo holds payout

RICARDO GROUP, the automotive engineering company, is holding the total dividend at 6.3p a share after incurring a pre-tax loss of £13.95 million in the year to June 30, compared with profits of £4.7 million. Losses were 33p a share, against earnings of 5.9p last time. The final dividend of 4.3p is due on November 28. The loss followed a £19.7 million charge against a disposal, restructuring in America and a property writedown. Trading profits were £5.7 million (£5.6 million).

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.95	Malta	0.982
Austria Sch	2.17	Netherlands Gld	0.982
Belgium F	21.00	New Zealand \$	3.392
Canada \$	51.84	Portugal Esc	20.48
Cyprus Cyp	2.963	S Africa Rd	8.25
Denmark Kr	0.885	Spain Ptas	166.64
Finland Mk	11.41	Sweden Kr	10.36
France Fr	10.66	Switzerland Fr	2.60
Germany Dm	10.07	Turkey Lira	1.792
Greece Dr	3.40	USA \$	1.792
Hong Kong \$	475		
Ireland P	13.33		
Israel Sh	1.18		
Italy Lira	5.38		
Japan Yen	210.43		

ITN to expand into Europe

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

INDEPENDENT Television News, the broadcaster, has signed heads of agreement to take a major stake plus managerial control in Euronews, the European television news channel.

Under the deal ITN will buy the 49 per cent stake in the cable and satellite venture now held by Alcatel, the

French electronics group, and run the channel in future. Stuart Purvis, chief executive of ITN, is optimistic that agreement can be reached before October 31, although a deal ultimately depends on the ITN board approving a Euronews business plan now being drawn up. If ITN takes control of the channel it will be

the UK news organisation's biggest international expansion. It will also mean ITN competing across Europe for the 24-hour news audience with Cable News Network, the BBC and SKY News.

Euronews, based in Lyons, has been available in cable and satellite homes across Europe but its position has been weak and it has survived a number of funding crises. Apart from Alcatel its main shareholders include TVE of Spain, RAI of Italy, France Television and the Swiss national broadcaster.

Saudi billionaire invests \$20m in New York label

Donna Karan's princely cut

By JON ASHWORTH

DONNA KARAN NEW YORK (DKNY) has become the latest high-profile name to catch the eye of Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the billionaire Saudi investor who bailed out Euro Disney.

He is paying more than \$20 million for a 7 per cent stake in DKNY, including 1 per cent for the benefit of Princess Reem, his daughter. It is the first time that a member of the prince's family has been publicly associated with his deal-making.

In a statement, Prince al-Waleed said he had been monitoring the company's performance for some time and was "very pleased" with the DKNY range of products. He considers DKNY a fast-growing label. His investment links him obliquely with Christina Ong, wife of Ong Beng Seng, the billionaire Singapore entrepreneur, who distributes DKNY in the UK, the Far East and Australasia.

Prince al-Waleed made his first move into retailing in 1993, when he paid \$100 million for a 10 per cent stake in Saks Fifth

Avenue. His investment portfolio spans Citicorp, Euro Disney, Canary Wharf, Mediaset, TWA, Planet Hollywood, Apple Computer, Cordiant, and Norwegian Cruise Line.

He holds stakes in the Four Seasons and Fairmont hotel chains, and has interests in the George V in Paris, the Plaza in New York, the Copley Plaza in Boston and a number of luxury hotels in the Middle East. *Forbes* magazine estimates the value of his investments at \$11 billion.

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Safeway left on the shelf



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Rarely do corporate mergers amount to a coming together of equals and in Safeway's acknowledged approach to Asda there is a tacit admission of weakness. Had the two eventually joined forces, it is the brash northerner, Asda, which would have certainly emerged as senior partner. Now, with the relationship over almost before it began, Safeway is left with its vulnerability exposed.

Safeway's problem is in a store portfolio which is not ideally suited to the demands of today's shopper, let alone tomorrow's. Under the guidance of Sir Alistair Grant, now demoted to his Scottish homeland and the chairmanship of the Scottish & Newcastle drinks business, Safeway has held its ground as a major player in a highly competitive market, but its share of that market is likely to come under increasing pressure from rivals with more winning formats.

That knowledge must have provided the impetus to send Sir Alistair's successor, David Webster, to Leeds in search of support. Although Asda is now keen to play down its enthusiasm for a deal, it seems that the initial approach did generate sufficient interest for the two companies to put together an Office of Fair Trading.

There is a superficial attraction in putting together the third and fourth players in the sector to mount a real challenge against Sainsbury and the ever more

successful Tesco. But gauging the shape of that challenger only serves to highlight the difficulties that Safeway faces.

Profit growth for supermarkets is coming increasingly from adding to the range of goods on offer, with grocers metamorphosing into new-age retailers, chemists, and most recently, banks. Asda has professed the aim of making itself the country's second largest retailer for family clothing, acknowledging the impossibility of budging Marks & Spencer from the number one slot but prepared to take on the rest. Becoming a one stop shop needs space, and Asda has it but too many Safeway stores are hangovers from another era. It is unlikely that even half of the Safeway portfolio could have converted to the Asda format.

The problem of what to do with the rest would have been tricky for the combined group but, without the merger, the out-datedness of many of its stores is an issue which will make life increasingly difficult for David Webster and his chief executive, Colin Smith.

Their need of a deal is more pressing than that of Asda, which has lined up a useful

physical expansion programme. But Asda, too, is keen for a corporate coup. A year ago it looked at the ailing Kwik Save and wisely walked away. Then it showed similar restraint over Welcome Break. Chairman Archie Norman is not quite fully occupied as an MP and deputy chairman of the Tory Party. Some of his thoughts will be focused on how to keep Asda shares, and the value of his options, motoring.

Full employment by any other name

Labour's new commitment to full employment for a new century sent shudders down the backs of employers. An embarrassed CBI said that employing as many people as possible was undoubtedly a good thing, but that it was more vital to maintain conditions for economic growth, namely low inflation, the Bank would yank the interest-rate brake, preserving those wasteful new management habits.

Significantly, the CBI's own medium-term forecasts envisage unemployment settling at about 1,500,000 into the new century. Its economists expect the economy to grow at its long-term sustainable rate of about 2.25 per cent to 2.5 per cent for the next few years. In that case, extra jobs will be created, net of more cuts in manufacturing and utilities, roughly in line with the growth of available labour.

Business is secretly addicted to having a pool of unemployed. Labour flexibility really means hiring and firing much more regularly, so the recruitment market is more sensitive today than when jobs were for life. Unless Gordon Brown tears up his new contract with the Bank of England, however, he cannot use a dash for growth to mop up the excess million on the dole queue. As the first sign of

inflation, the Bank would yank the interest-rate brake, preserving those wasteful new management habits.

That need not make Mr Brown's commitment an empty one, though it probably is. Structural unemployment still accounts for at least half a million people who have been abandoned in the wrong places or with the wrong skills at the wrong age. Finding jobs for them, with the aid of training, should not be inflationary since they are effectively not in the available labour force.

In the 1950s, when inflation was low but half a million out of work was shocking, young people started work two years later because of National Service. Some modern equivalent, perhaps dubbed "Welfare to Work", could have a similar impact, though the aim is more modest.

The Chancellor can still boost jobs via his role as fixer of taxes. Employment is taxed directly

through employers' national insurance contributions. Far more should be employed if NICs were axed and the price of labour permanently cut, unless the laws of supply and demand were miraculously suspended. A higher rate of corporation tax on those who cut jobs than on those who create them would ensure that employers noticed.

Business needs to know

The City has been crying out for the President of the Board of Trade to spell out her view on competition. Yesterday, she stood up in Brighton and declared that it was all about "putting the consumer first".

Sadly, in the real world, the choice is rarely so simple as whether to prefer evil big business over the man in the street. That idea smacks uncomfortably of old labour, as did Mrs Beckett's assertion that "We will make sure that business cannot stifle competition at the expense of the family budget."

We have yet to learn how this sentiment will be interpreted in cases such as P&O's wish to join forces with Stena on the cross

channel ferry route or in Littlewoods bid to takeover the Sears' subsidiary, Freemans. The arguments in both cases are complex and the family budget should surely only be one of the elements to be taken into account. Business needs to know the terms on which monopolies will be defined and whether the new government will be prepared to examine market domination in the context of a European market rather than tightly drawn UK regions. If the aim is to build strong companies which can compete on the international stage, there will come a time at which Mrs Beckett has to be prepared to accept that a hefty share of UK business does not necessarily work against consumers' interests. She did yesterday concede that she did not believe all mergers to be evil, but she was not completely convincing.

T&N tension

FEDERAL-MOGULS bid for T&N should have been greeted with whoops of joy by shareholders in the company once better known as Turner & Newall. A promise of at least 235p cash per share, more than 40 per cent up on the recent trading level, has been greeted by mutterings that nothing less than 280p will do. Major shareholders P&O and M&G may need to grab any chance of improving performance but should not be too greedy.

BG plan will return £1.3bn to investors

By ADAM JONES

BG, the demerged pipeline and exploration arm of British Gas, yesterday released details of its share buyback, which could return £1.3 billion to shareholders.

The buyback, announced in principle earlier this month, will reduce BG's market capitalisation by 11.8 per cent. It is designed to reduce the cost of capital as the company moves to meet price cuts demanded by the gas regulator. Fees associated with the buyback will total £15 million.

Shareholders will be given 15 new ordinary shares for every 17 that they own. They will also receive 17 "B" shares, worth 30p each, plus a cash sum reflecting any fractional entitlements.

Shareholders will have the option of selling the "B" shares back to BG without commission or dealing expenses, through the brokers, Hoare Govett or Cazenove.

For each 100 ordinary shares held, a shareholder who chooses to sell would have £30 returned. Their 88

new ordinary shares will represent the same proportionate interest in the equity of BG as their current holding, barring minor adjustments. It is estimated that 80 to 90 per cent of BG's 1.4 million shareholders will choose to sell in this way. To do so, they must register their intention with BG, on forms sent to them by the company, by October 31.

BG has applied to have the "B" shares listed on the London Stock Exchange. Dealings are expected to begin on November 3. Those who decide to keep them will receive a dividend set at 75 per cent of the 12-month LIBOR, the inter-bank borrowing rate. They will have limited voting rights.

The plan requires the approval of an extraordinary general meeting, which has been called for October 27.

The buyback enables BG to increase its gearing, raising money at a more competitive rate, and accompanies a reduction in the dividend, almost by half.

Robinson buyout incurs loss

By GEORGE SIVELL

HOGG ROBINSON, the business support services group, has sold its transport division for up to £23 million to its management, but has incurred an exceptional loss of £12.3 million in the process.

Clive Holmes, managing director of Hogg Robinson Transport, led the buyout. The transport division made £3 million on sales of £121 million in the year to March.

The disposal was not enough to satisfy UK Active Value, the four per cent shareholder that has lobbied the Hogg Robinson board. The board said that the sale proceeds will be used to grow the international business travel and British financial services operations.

UK Active Value, however, believes that financial services should be sold as well and that Hogg Robinson should launch a £25 million to £30 million share buyback.

Shares in Hogg Robinson rose 12½p to 237½p.

Close lifts its profits past £55m

By JON ASHWORTH

CLOSE BROTHERS, the merchant bank that owns Winterflood Securities, the smaller companies market-maker, has lifted its profits for the 22nd consecutive year.

Solid performance in its main activities — asset finance, market-making and merchant banking — saw pre-tax profits rise 25 per cent, to £54 million, in the year to July 31. Earnings per share were 28.8p (24.8p). A final dividend of 8.2p (6.8p) makes 12p (10p). Pre income from corporate advisory work and investment management rose to £39.7 million (£22.9 million), contributing to a more balanced split of revenues. Net fees now contribute 24 per cent of operating profits before central costs, against 20 per cent last time.

Winterflood and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson have launched a joint venture offering a combined automatic execution service covering most UK stocks.

Tempos, page 28

Contract failure hits results at McKechnie

THE £4 million cost of abandoning a disastrous US contract held back full year profits at McKechnie, the plastic components manufacturer (Adam Jones writes).

McKechnie warned investors of the charge, classed as an exceptional item in the results, in March. It was incurred after a process for painting plastic mouldings failed to work adequately.

The charge meant pre-tax profits only grew from £50.3 million to £51.6 million in the year to July 31, despite the acquisition of Dzus Fasteners

for £15.6 million last August. Operating profits were £53.3 million (£53.2 million), swelled by a better-than-expected £3.3 million maiden contribution from Dzus. The overall consumer products division saw profits nearly halve due to restructuring in New Zealand and a flat market in Australia.

A final dividend of 13p (12p), making a total of 19.5p (18p) for the year, will be paid on January 2, 1998, as a foreign income dividend. The shares rose 2½p to 502½p yesterday.

Tempos, page 28

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Tony Blair makes his first speech as Prime Minister to Labour's annual conference today against the background of a new policy commitment: the declaration by Gordon Brown, his Chancellor, of the Government's backing for full employment.

The Chancellor was unequivocal yesterday in his speech to the conference in Brighton. He said the Government would pursue "employment opportunities for all, in every part of the United Kingdom. Full employment for the 21st century—that is the ambition of decent-minded people everywhere."

Full employment. Why is it for some a near-talismanic objective of policy? It is a phrase redolent of history, and steeped in Labourism. It stems from the 1944 White Paper on Employment from Sir William Beveridge, the great social reformer, which set as a goal for economic policy a "high and stable level of employment."

Keynesian economics pursued by both Labour and Conservative governments in

What Brown means when he talks about full employment

the wake of the White Paper saw precisely that objective being sustained: unemployment in the 1950s and 1960s was at levels so low as to appear staggering now after the high unemployment of the 1980s and 1990s. When Labour was last in power, unemployment above one million seemed politically inconceivable.

Full employment as a policy objective began to unravel with the rise of inflation in the 1970s, and was abandoned as a goal by the Conservatives after 1979. For Labour, shifting away from the objective of full employment was a more painful experience. It began to disappear under the leadership of Neil Kinnock, who would refer only to "modern full employment," and Labour leaders have been

chary of it until Mr Brown's pronouncement yesterday.

With good reason. Full employment used to mean as many jobs for full-time male manual workers as there were full-time male manual workers wanting them. That idea cannot be embraced by any political leader today, simply because changes in the labour market no longer allow it.

Women now constitute 44 per cent of the economically active workforce, according to figures drawn from the Government's Labour Force Survey. While many of the jobs taken by women still tend to be lower-paid, and are often part-time, the move of women into the workforce cannot be undone. So if the old notion of full employment is unattainable,

why then is the Chancellor reviving the phrase from Labour's historical canon?

Bringing the notion of full employment in from the cold is partly cosmetic. It helps to get people like John Edmonds, leader of the GMB union, off the Government's back. But while welcoming the move, they will be guarded until they see what the phrase means in terms of the economic policies that Mr Brown will pursue.

What the Chancellor's team mean by full employment is broadly this: anyone wanting a job should have the opportunity of being able to get one. What the Chancellor wants is a new concentration on employment, on jobs, rather than on unemployment, on people being without work. The new talk of full employment specifically avoids targets, either in terms of further falls in the number of people out of work, or in the number of those in jobs.

Full employment in practice, of course, cannot and will not mean the end of unemployment. Even in Keynesian full employment, unemployment was always envisaged as continuing—so-called "frictional" unemployment, as people moved from job to job.

That happens now. Take a full employment town like Andover in Hampshire. Surrounded by rich farming countryside, buoyed by the presence of the Army on Salisbury Plain, and ringed now by thriving small industrial estates, Andover and its surrounding travel-to-work area currently enjoys an unemployment rate of just 1.9 per cent.

The effect of this is to see employers all but fighting each other to get staff. Skill shortages are a constant feature of life, allowing employees often to pick and choose what work they want to do and forcing up salaries. Recruitment agencies report that demand for labour is buoyant, and the tills in the shops in the town's Chantry shopping centre reflect that. But unemployment is unlikely to disappear completely.

Long-term unemployment, at about half a million people out of work for more than a year, is still a more serious problem in the UK than elsewhere in Europe. Ministers now talk of rebalancing the Government's New Deal welfare-to-work job subsidy programme, to target more money from the £35 billion windfall tax on the long-term out of work and less on the young unemployed.

PHILIP BASSETT

Safeway ambitions left on the shelf after merger talks fail

Ensuring the big deals add up is far from simple, says Sarah Cunningham

A merger between Asda and Safeway would have given the supermarket sector a huge kick in the pants. Tesco and J Sainsbury would have been forced to watch as the merged companies—currently numbers three and four in the pecking order—catapulted into the number one spot, while consumers would have become involved as a new price war broke out.

With the talks off, nothing has really changed except people's perceptions, and they have altered markedly. Asda has clearly failed in its latest attempt to branch out while Safeway has gone from being a respected and dogged performer to looking very vulnerable to takeover. According to Richard Hyman of the Verdict retail consultancy, "Safeway now appears to lack confidence about their position, but their options are limited."

The failure of the talks after months of negotiations shows how hard it is to make the big deals gel. There are many problems to overcome, ranging from dealing with differences of culture between any two large companies, to the question of who would run the merged business, and then—the most delicate requirement of all—getting any major merger proposal past the Department of Trade and Industry.

According to both sides, it was the likelihood that the bid would be referred by the Office of Fair Trading to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that caused the deal to be shelved. Informal soundings of the OFT had suggested that a referral was likely, and the appearance of weekend press reports that a deal was



The future of Safeway, which pioneered self-scanning, looks vulnerable with the Asda deal now in limbo

imminent meant that the usual high-level confidential guidance would not be forthcoming. With Asda feeling 90 per cent certain that a referral would occur and Safeway unwilling to risk the disruption to business it would entail, talks were simply halted.

The prospect of spending four to six months in suspense, not taking decisions on whether to apply for planning permission on new sites or on new marketing campaigns, while Tesco continued to romp off with more market share and Sainsbury's continued its tentative recovery, was too much for both to bear.

This is not to say that either side thought the deal would be blocked in the end. In fact both were confident it would get through. There is relatively little regional overlap between the two businesses. The North East of England and Scotland are the exceptions. In the latter, the two would have had about 35 per cent market share. On overall market

share they would between them have only slightly more market share than Tesco, which claims about 15 per cent of the total. In Asda's view it was the sheer size of the deal, and the number of employees and consumers affected, that would have made a referral almost inevitable.

The fact that a deal was so seriously discussed, even if it

eventually failed, has changed the perception of every company in the sector to some degree. Tesco is still very much the leader, but for the first time it has become apparent that it could have lost that position. J Sainsbury, weakened by several years of underperformance, could have been badly hurt. They will both be mightily relieved

the merger is off. As for the protagonists, Asda has now failed to secure two deals—the first to buy Welcome Break from Granada—and appears increasingly directionless although still powered by very strong sales growth and by its high-margin clothing business. But most vulnerable of all is Safeway, which as one industry insider puts it "has put a large sale sign above its head".

The two sides have taken a very different view about what a merger would have meant. According to Safeway, the questions of where the business was headquartered, who would have been chief executive and what the stores would be called were never discussed. The other side reckoned that the stores would have been renamed Asda, the business would have been located in Asda House in Leeds and Allan Leighton, chief executive of Asda, would have done the same job for the larger group. Archie Norman, Tory politician and chairman of Asda,

would have been joint chairman of the business with David Webster, chairman of Safeway, and Colin Smith, chief executive of Safeway, would have become either deputy chairman or group finance director.

This scenario has the unfortunate effect of making Safeway look rather foolish, and therefore even more vulnerable. Its shares were 9p higher yesterday on speculation that it is a takeover target, with some analysts warning to the notion that Marks & Spencer could acquire it in order to become a major food retailer. Both Safeway and Marks & Spencer poured cold water on the idea.

A foreign company could make a move, although according to one analyst: "There are only three companies in Europe big enough to buy Safeway—Carrefour in France, Ahold in The Netherlands and Metro in Germany—and none of them is likely to do it." Out of companies in the US, Wal-Mart is mentioned as a possible buyer but is again thought to be a long shot.

Safeway's response could be to buy a smaller food retailer, but there are few that are both attractive and available. Yorkshire-based Morrisons rose 12p yesterday on speculation that it could be bought, but, as one analyst put it: "It is not necessarily available, still has to get past the OFT, and it would not make you number one."

The other possibility is that, somehow, Safeway will still manage to make the deal happen. The company is still clearly convinced of the logic behind the idea and is insistent that the public would benefit, as the £200 million to be made in savings through putting operations together could be spent on price cuts. Paul Smiddy, analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, said: "Safeway is still clinging to a hope. Even if Asda says it is all off, it would be surprising if senior management didn't have a few chats over the next few months."

No name — just images of Boddies

How do you tell your chief executive that the new million pound advertising campaign will not actually mention the name of the brand? "You present the advertising and then say, 'Oh, by the way, there's no brand name,'" said John Derkach, Whitbread Beers marketing director, the man behind the new Boddingtons campaign.



MARKETING ROS SNOWDON

The new advertisements, which will appear over the autumn, make a play on images of cream, reflecting Boddington's long use of the catchphrase "the cream of Manchester". The traditional yellow strip, logo and brand name have been removed.

Research conducted by Bartle Bogle Hegarty, the advertising agency, revealed that 75 per cent of consumers knew that the campaign was for Boddingtons. "Consumers take in more when they have to work it out. People felt particularly rewarded when they worked out the cream caramel pun," said Steve Kershaw, group director of Bartle Bogle Hegarty.

Piers Schmidt, director of Newell and Sorrell, the brand consultancy that is

handling the Blur song Parklife, the only accompaniment to the swoosh is Nike's catchline "Just do it". Nike refuses to reveal its advertising spend, but it is believed to be in the region of about £10 million a year in Britain, not much compared with similar brands of its size.

But before companies jettison their existing advertising in favour of no-name campaigns, some words of warning—it will only work if your advertising is very famous. Katrina Campbell,

a director at Interbrand, the consultancy, said no-name advertising must tie in with previous campaigns that have used the name. In the case of Boddingtons, the "cream of Manchester" campaign has been running for six years and there have been 37 images, all in the same vein. "Very few brands and campaigns are strong enough to do this," said Campbell.

No-name advertising is a risky tactic, but when it works the impact is tremendous. Most companies can only dream of advertising recall levels of 75 per cent.

Marketing directors, once fashionable figures in the boardroom, are suffering a mid-life crisis. Research by The Marketing Society reveals that they are worried about their future and feel threatened by interference from other directors. The sales department is also critical. New research by NHA International, the sales management firm, reveals that 75 per cent of sales directors believe that their marketing departments do not understand customers and 10 per cent say relations between marketing and sales are hostile.

IMPULSE PURCHASE?

island company n. 1 companion of Robinson Crusoe 2 a desert island disc 3 an overseas company incorporated in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

concert parties n. 1 bunfight which typically involves a large number of musicians 2 group of persons acting in concert to acquire a company's shares.

close company n. 1 organisation which lacks either windows or air-conditioning 2 a company which for the purposes of corporation tax is considered to be under the control of five or fewer participants.

pyramid selling n. 1 time-share operation run by ancient Egyptians (usu. 1 week for 5,000 years) 2 a system of selling goods in which agency rights are sold on to an increasing number of distributors.

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Ad lib

BY A pleasing irony Safeway sponsored—I think this means they paid for all the drink—a party last night for all the new Labour MPs. As opposed to all new Labour MPs, if you see what I mean. Plus Blair, Prescott, David Webster, Safeway's chairman, and Colin Smith, its miserable chief executive. Well, he sounded miserable yesterday. The party was entertained by spoof ads featuring those cutesie-pie toddlers, Harry and Molly. Harry: "Why

doesn't Tony Banks like doing the football pools. Molly: "Because he hates ticking the 'No Publicity' box." Harry: "Well, John, I'm sure everyone would like to thank you for that rousing speech..." (yawn).

Boom, boom. Oddly enough, nothing about Margaret Beckett, a politician Safeway has every reason to stay on the right side of. I could tell them a good joke from the time she appeared on TV opposite some Tory minister. Jonathan Aitken I do believe, and the interviewer bumbled something about her claims coming "from the horse's mouth". Aitken looked at Beckett. And laughed. Such a nice man. Safeway is sponsoring a crèche at Brighton, presumably because the younger ones of the new intake can get a bit fractious near bedtime, and one at the Tory Party conference. Cue Harry: "At least William Hague will have somewhere to go."

● NOW the Diana effect has joined the National Lottery and the soaring pound as catch-all excuses for profit warnings, clever management will have to look further afield. Might I suggest El Niño, the mysterious disturbance of the ocean currents that happens every dozen years or so and is being blamed for the Indonesian smog. The great thing about El Niño is: a) it is dimly understood; b) it



effects are impossible to predict; and c) they can be felt half a globe away. A mysterious fall in sales of women's garments might be the least of them.

Tooting beckons

ANOTHER story reaches me from the Labour conference. The term "chicken run" was cleverly coined by the party in opposition to describe Tory MPs who foresaw their fate and tried to identify their fellow planning not to stand in the last election. It has not escaped the notice of Blair's bright young things that the majority in the next election is not going to be as commanding, which means that most of those fresh faces that slew a few Tory giants will not be around

for long. Which explains a sudden interest in the safe constituency of Tooting, south London, where the MP for more years than anyone can remember, Tom Cox, could be heading for the Lords. Spotted checking out local property prices, one highly-placed young Fabian, as yet not an MP, and at least one household name giant-killer. May the best man win.

● PERHAPS Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse need all the help they can get. Both lost to Lloyd's of London at the Reuters rugby sevens at Richmond over the weekend. Coopers lost 45-0—admittedly in the final. Perhaps if they field a merged side next year? The event attracted 1,500 people and raised £12,000 for children's medical research.

A charming vignette from the day's play. A tannoy announcement: "Will Uncle Timmy please come and pick up little Aleda." Then, rather louder, a child's voice can be heard: "Come on, Uncle Timmy! My companion snorts. 'Probably getting smashed somewhere, and forgotten he's brought his niece.' Not so; Uncle Timmy was absent because he was murdering Flemings 40 points to 7 on behalf of Liberty.

Watery grave

AN ODDLY ageing business, turning all those taps on and off. The second senior water industry executive in less than a week has announced he

is tottering off to early retirement at the age of 52. Thames handed one of their gold watch last week, and the giant farewell card is now doing the rounds of Yorkshire's offices for Brian Wilson, the finance director. I am required to scotch three rumours. He will not be rejoining the Beach Boys. He is not off to spend millions made on share options—at Yorkshire they don't get any. And he has not finally revolted at sharing an office with Trevor Newton, the Yorkshire director who famously never takes a bath. Newton himself retired almost a year ago.

MARTIN WALLER



"Excellent with Safeway's cheese, it says. Are they trying to tell us something?"



David Webster, chairman of Safeway, sponsors of the party for new Labour MPs

[illegible]

Day trip to tomorrow's market

Rodney Hobson on an express way to help small businesses to export

FOUR carriage-loads of businessmen and women, many seeking to export for the first time, will travel by Eurostar to trade shows in Paris next month.

The trip has been organised jointly by the Department of Trade and Industry and Lloyds Bank. If it is successful, it will be repeated to other European destinations.

The DTI approached Lloyds with the idea after working with the bank on several seminars on exporting and marketing for small businesses. The trip will include 100 Lloyds customers drawn from all over Britain and 100 businesses applying through Business Links.

Most of the places have already been snapped up for the one-day trip from Waterloo station, London, on October 15, but there is still room for applicants. Tickets cost £99.

France was chosen partly because it is a leading export market, taking £17 billion of British goods per year, and partly because five major annual trade shows will be held at the same time.

Visitors on the trip will split between automotive, electronics, interior decorating, international

tourism and technology. Companies selling consumer goods will have the chance to visit stores.

On the way over the travellers will receive practical help and guidance from experts and get the chance to talk to businesses that trade successfully with France.

Among the Lloyds Bank customers making the crossing is a Liverpool company making up-market shower units that fire jets of water from all four corners of the cubicles. It already exports to America but is looking to break into the continental market.

Other companies have only begun to think about exporting. The DTI and Lloyds Bank have targeted small and medium-sized companies that believe barriers such as language will prevent them from selling abroad.

Anthony Lurch, the DTI's export promoter for France, says: "It is the UK's third-largest export market and there is a good deal of untapped potential. Many companies that trade well in the UK are not sure how to sell their product or service abroad."

Michael Riding, managing director of Lloyds Bank Commercial



Anthony Lurch, left, and Michael Riding, will be taking business people to France on the Eurostar

Service, says: "Discovering new markets is a major barrier for many companies, yet only 50 per cent of UK businesses export. We are trying to get people at an early stage across a wide range of

businesses. When you have got a whole group like that together they will encourage each other and provide mutual support."

He added: "If you are thinking of selling overseas for the first time it

helps to be part of a business party."

Brochures and booking forms for the "Starburst Express" are available from the DTI's French Desk on 0171-215 4903.

Upbeat project to help retailers

By BRIAN COLLETT

SMALL retailers in North London are to be helped by European money in their fight to regain trade lost to large shopping complexes.

Profits in many high streets have been cut by the booming complexes, and North London has suffered particularly badly since Brent Cross was built on its doorstep and Lakeside was established 30 minutes' drive away in Thurrock, Essex.

The European Commission has pumped more than £600,000 into a two-year initiative called Upbeat — the Urban Partnership in Barnet and Enfield to Adapt Town Centres — under its Adapt scheme, aimed at helping employers and employees to meet change and to improve traders' competitiveness.

Upbeat, budgeted at £1.45 million and led by the North London Chamber of Commerce, will start on January 1, targeting 11 shopping centres in Barnet and four in Enfield.

The project will give training in business planning, marketing, customer service and new technology. Centres offering advice and guidance for small businesses are planned for the selected areas.

Peter Starling, manager of the

Upbeat project, said: "Perhaps the smaller retailers have lost out on training, but they have got to go prepared into the 21st century."

The training could cover anything from better presentation to improving telephone techniques. Retailers may be encouraged to stay open later to compete with the big centres.

Another reason for helping the high streets is that people may soon be deterred from travelling by traffic jams and will return to their local shops.

One condition of the Adapt funding is that partners are found in other European Union countries. The Upbeat organisers will exchange information with towns facing similar problems in France, Italy and Greece.

Upbeat's contributors include Barnet and Enfield councils, Barnet College, Boots, ICL and the North London Training and Enterprise Council.

In Barnet the council has given Upbeat a head-start with a separate £1 million scheme to improve shopping centres.

Another Adapt beneficiary is neighbouring Haringey, where the council has been granted £225,000 for the revival of Wood Green shopping centre.

Record numbers expected at franchise show

By RODNEY HOBSON

THIS year's National Franchise Exhibition, opening at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, on Friday, will be the biggest yet.

More than 200 exhibitors have booked stands, beating last year's record of just under 200, when 12,000 visitors were attracted to the three-day event. A series of free seminars will run alongside the exhibition. Sir Bernard Ingham, the chief press secretary of Margaret Thatcher when she was Prime Minister and now president of the British Franchise Association, will open the event. The association is sponsoring the show, which is organised by Miller Freeman.

Investments start at £3,000 but can be much higher for well-established names and for those that involve buying property.

Burger King, the fast food chain

owned by Grand Metropolitan, will be exhibiting at the annual event for the first time. About 80 per cent of its 430 UK restaurants are franchised. Franchisees cost a one-off fee of about £26,000 plus a 5 per cent royalty on all sales. The average cost of premises is £450,000 and the franchisee is

expected to put up 35 per cent of the total cost.

The rival burger chain, McDonald's, will be back, alongside Wimpy and Domino's Pizza.

Other well-known franchise systems that will be exhibiting include Printaprint, Red Star, Chemical Express, Signs Express

and Dyno-Rod. They will be joined by the high street banks.

Newcomers to the NEC include Häagen-Dazs Cafés, the ice-cream chain, and Bang & Olufsen, the international hi-fi specialist.

Hammicks Bookshops, which has 25 high street branches and three legal-bookshops, is using the

exhibition to launch the first stage of an expansion programme. Hammicks decided this month to turn to franchising as part of its strategy to meet the competition that is threatening traditional bookshops since the ending of the Net Book Agreement.

Potential franchisees will take a two-month training programme to learn about buying, merchandising, promotions, seasonal trends, staff recruitment and shop management. A total investment of about £165,000, including a personal input of £60,000, will be required.

Mr Jones, of Wood Green, who is studying astrophysics at University College London, was one of 1,539 students taking part in the Shell Technology Enterprise Programme — the largest so far. He won his £1,000 prize for assessing unlabelled stock, cataloguing surplus supplies and looking at ways to re-use them. This has saved the firm money and space, and created a full-time job for a chemist.

League tables showing the payment records of large companies are to be compiled by the Federation of Small Businesses and Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company. The first table is due in the middle of next year.

Midland Bank has appointed South Asian banking managers at branches in the City, Harrow, Southall, Birmingham, Leicester and Manchester. Further teams will be appointed at other branches — including East London, Coventry, Bradford and Glasgow — early next year.



Questions and notepad essential

THE organisers of the franchise exhibition have issued a set of guidelines for visitors who are considering becoming franchisees.

Before you arrive:

□ Be sure how much you can afford to invest.

□ Make a list of the franchisees you want to meet.

□ Make a list of the questions you

want to ask and bring a notepad so you can write down information.

At the exhibition, take advantage of the free advice on offer and talk to as many companies as you can. Check out the competition in the industry that you are interested in.

Take time to consider fran-

chises carefully and ask to speak to existing franchisees.

Do not expect exhibitors to give you an instant answer to whether you are suitable for a franchise. Likewise, the franchisor should not pressure you to make a commitment or ask for money.

Do not sign anything until you have sought expert legal advice.

FRANCHISES

Hammicks BOOKSHOPS

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INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RECRUITMENT

LAW

Safety is a driving issue

How safe does
a car have
to be before
the eyes of
the law, asks
Shane Sayers

Anyone who saw the remains of the car in which Diana, Princess of Wales, died will have had their own thoughts. As time passes, some may reflect upon the safety of their Mercedes and the fact that it provided sufficient protection to save any of the passengers' lives in a crash at that speed. The bodyguard survived not only from the construction of the car, but also the seatbelt and airbag.

For many, this is the level of safety and protection that they have come to expect. For the legal profession the more pertinent question is the extent to which car manufacturers may face increasing pressure to produce vehicles that meet these expectations.

Most people have read about the various tests that manufacturers undertake when developing vehicles. Everyone has seen the shots of the test dummies in slow motion. We have "faith" in the manufacturers and for them this is the dilemma. How safe can they make cars? How safe is "safe"?

The difficulty for car manufacturers lies in the culture that they play only a part in developing. All cars could be made "safer". A limitation on top speed or the replacement of the steering wheel with a "joystick" control set off to the side would both greatly reduce the number of accidents each year. Chest injuries caused by the driver's collision with the steering wheel is still a major cause of injury.

The problem lies in the public's acceptance of these ideas and the according benefit to the industry. The manufacturers are faced with a dilemma. They have to compromise and balance the consumers' demands, including the call for lower prices, with the need to develop safer vehicles. Additional safety costs money. Even accepted safety features, including side impact protection and airbags, increase costs without necessarily increasing sales.

The problem facing the manufacturers rests with the fact that the question of safety



The Mercedes in which Diana, Princess of Wales, died, calls into question the safety of the majority of vehicles

is not judged against an objective, fixed or technical standard. It involves a movable feast. The views of the consumer form the standard of safety applied by the courts and therefore change with the times.

There is evidence that they take safety seriously; although not to do so, of course, could give rise to claims. In May 1992, product recalls included: 864 new Porsche cars for a potential "cruise control" problem (US); 120,000 Golf and Vento models because of faulty electrical cables by Volkswagen (US); and 170,000 Citroën BX owners asked to take cars in for free brake checks (UK).

Quite apart from any contractual liability manufacturers face claims by consumers under the Consumer Protection Act 1987 which implemented the 1985 Product Liability Directive

(85/374/EEC). Liability under the Consumer Protection Act is identified in Article 1. "The producer shall be liable for damage caused by a defect in its product."

It was by virtue of the introduction of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 that the concept of a strict liability was introduced in relation to consumers' claims. The Act identifies a product as defective if it "does not provide the safety which a person is entitled to expect, having regard to all the circumstances including the presentation of the product". This involves the introduction of an objective standard which is entirely dependent upon the public understanding of safety. The "presentation" includes the manufacturers' advertising.

For the above reasons motor manufacturers face the possibility of being judged against a public standard of safety

which they have largely formed through the media.

The introduction of the "Kill Speed" campaign illustrates a further problem. The public's belief in the cocooned safety of modern vehicles has led to a feeling that a crash at 60, 70 or even 120 miles per hour is a survivable event as long as seatbelts and airbags are in place. They are wrong.

It is therefore essential that manufacturers take stock, step back from the glossy campaigns and keep safety in perspective. If they do not, they have to take their share of the blame as more drivers exceed the speed limit with greater regularity and risk facing claims on the basis that vehicles are not as safe as the public are "entitled to expect".

Likewise, the Government should continue to be at the vanguard of safety developments. We should learn from the benefits that were obtained from the "compulsory" introduction of seatbelts.

It is of course important that consumers understand that while manufacturers appreciate the virtues of various

innovative safety elements in the construction of their vehicles, most accidents are caused by the driver and not by the vehicle. Unrealistic expectations diminish the drivers' awareness of his responsibility in respect of driving the vehicle safely. In the long term the public's expectations in relation to vehicle safety will almost certainly exceed the efforts made by the manufacturers themselves.

It may be worth noting the need to temper advertising in relation to vehicle safety against the very real fact that in the end a vehicle is only as safe as the person who is behind the wheel.

The author is a partner specialising in product liability at Kennedy, the City law firm.

The problem with the thin grey line

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has announced plans to speed up the criminal justice system. Our adversarial system is routinely criticised for failing to deliver guilty people to justice. As an example of this, an editorial in *Police Review* supported a reduction in the disclosure to the defence of material obtained during the police investigation. It claimed that defence lawyers used such material to construct defences, bamboozle juries and discredit police officers.

It is not surprising that sections of the public believe that our criminal justice system is characterised by defendants who, encouraged by their lawyers and at great expense to the taxpayer, protest their innocence at jury trials, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. A police officer writing in *Police Review* once likened the prosecution and the defence to medieval knights, fighting it out until the bitter end.

The facts show that this picture of the criminal justice system is far from the truth. The system is built upon agreement rather than resistance. Most suspects do not ask for legal representation in the police station. Instead of maintaining their innocence, the vast majority of defendants plead guilty. Most of the trials which take place are decided by magistrates, not juries. Defence solicitors are in the main paid a standard fee, which penalises them for spinning out a case unnecessarily.

For every nine cases which are completed in the magistrates' court, only one is sent to the Crown Court. Out of a group of ten magistrates' court defendants, eight will plead guilty, one will be convicted in his or her absence and only one will take part in a trial. Only one in four of those who are tried will be acquitted; a mere 2 per cent of the total caseload. Only 1 per cent of the one million cases which are decided by magistrates each year go on to an appeal.

In the Crown Court, the position is much the same. A similarly high proportion of defendants plead guilty. Of those who do not, 60 per cent are convicted, at a trial which is unlikely to last more than one day.

The Government has just announced that it will accept most of the recommendations of the Review of the Delay in the Criminal Justice System (the Narey Report) to speed up justice. These include dealing with "straightforward guilty plea cases" the day after charge (rather than bailing the defendant to appear in court some weeks later) and allowing non-lawyers employed by the CPS to review "super abbreviated" files prepared

by the police, decide whether a prosecution should be brought and present uncontested cases in the magistrates' court. These prosecutors will be based permanently in police stations, putting their independence to the test. As many as two thirds of magistrates' court cases could be completed in this way.

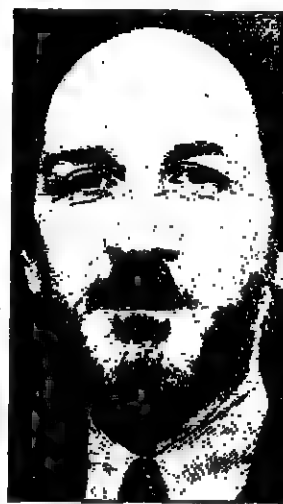
Courts are already required to consider rewarding an early guilty plea with a reduced sentence. From tomorrow, the Government will implement a new mode of trial provisions, under which defendants will be asked to indicate whether they are guilty or not before a decision is made about whether the case should be sent to the Crown Court.

Moves to speed up criminal cases should be supported. But our criminal justice system relies heavily upon the compliance of those whom it accuses. With an unashamedly

partisan police service, these changes make it even more important that visible safeguards exist to ensure that innocent defendants are not pressured into pleading guilty because they mistakenly believe that this is the best or the only course to take.

Defendants need to be advised whether they are guilty in law, whether there is adequate evidence against them, and how they can defend themselves. Defence solicitors, who currently give this advice, are the thin grey line who stand between the innocent defendant and a mistaken plea of guilty.

The importance of the solicitor's role is not matched by the information on which the solicitor is expected to base his or her advice. In the



ROGER EDE

police station the investigator will disclose as little of the police case as possible. At court, the solicitor will only be given a "short descriptive note" of the interview with the defendant and the few witness statements which will be in the "super abbreviated file".

In a consultation paper published last year, the Labour Party proposed the withdrawal of publicly funded legal representation from youth courts "where the defendant admitted the charge or there was no serious dispute over the facts surrounding an offence". They now promise fundamental changes for youth courts and the entire criminal justice process is under almost continuous review. Dangerous talk that defence lawyers obstruct justice, combined with a wish to speed cases up, must not mislead the Government into thinking that it can dispense with this thin grey line in uncontested cases and still have any sort of justice system.

The author is the Secretary of the Law Society's Criminal Law Committee.

Makers need to develop safer but cheaper cars

Fat cat attack

THE Bar may think twice about inviting a politician as their speaker next year. Home Office assurances that Jack Straw's speech was a "vision of criminal justice in the 21st century" gave no hint as to his attack on "fat cat" legal aid lawyers. Robert Owen, QC, the Bar Chairman, first heard of the comments on morning news bulletins. Of course, the onslaught eclipsed Mr Owen's own warning to the Government not to proceed with expanding "no win, no fee" work without more research. He effectively accused Geoff Hoon, junior Minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, of citing a report on the scheme selectively and overlooking problems raised.

Vice position

HEATHER HALLETT, QC, is poised to become Bar Chairman at the end of the year. But who will succeed her as vice-chairman? Nominations close this week but names in the ring include an unprecedented number of silks. Two commercial QCs, Julian Malins and Jonathan Hirst, are in the running, as is one of the country's top personal injury barristers, Daniel Brennan, and the criminal practitioner and Western Circuit leader Nigel Pascoe, who chairs the Bar's

INNS AND OUTS

public relations committee. Predicting the outcome is never easy, but on paper at least Mr Hirst, chairman of the Bar Council's influential professional standards committee and a member of Brick Court Chambers, which specialises in producing leaders of the Bar Council, would appear to be the obvious choice.

Eye on the ball

THE Equal Opportunities Commission is backing a claim of sex discrimination against the Football Associ-

ation. The claim is being brought by Vanessa Hardwick, who has tried twice to obtain the FA advanced coaching licence. Ms Hardwick, a PE teacher, needs to obtain the licence to develop a career in football coaching and she believes the refusal is because she is a woman.

College coups

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE London is celebrating a couple of stunning coups: it has

medical law and ethics at King's College, London. Kennedy is to join its new School of Public Policy. He takes up the new chair of health law, ethics and policy tomorrow.

At the same time the law school has pulled off a prize in luring Professor Ronald Dworkin, who holds the chair of jurisprudence at Oxford University (as well as a chair at New York University) to come to its Quain chair of jurisprudence. Both men are leaders in their field — Kennedy in medico-legal matters and Dworkin as a commentator on common law, legal and moral philosophy.

Fun prospects

TEAMS of trainee solicitors can still enter the inter-firm business game, the Prospects Cup. Play starts next month. Last year the cup was won by Lovell White Durrant, but small firms can also enter. Lawyers scooped the board last year, with law firms accounting for four of the five finalists. Martineau Johnson from Birmingham narrowly missed a place in the final but won the best law firm with fewer than 20 solicitors in training.

Meanwhile, another business game has been launched by S.J. Berwin, the City law firm — for law students. *Boardroom Blitz*, sponsored by *The Lawyer* magazine, is aimed at second-year law undergraduates who will compete in teams of five.

Model of cultural success



Farouque Abdela designs

LAWYERS modelling designs by the designer Farouque Abdela proved the highlight of a "night of cultural splendour" put on by the African, Caribbean and Asian Lawyers Group. The ACA, who were commended in *The Times* and Law Society Equal Opportunities Award scheme, holds its annual conference on October 18, at SOAS, London University. Details: Jerry Garvey 0171-320 5873.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

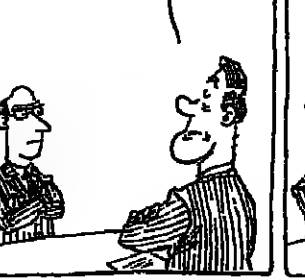
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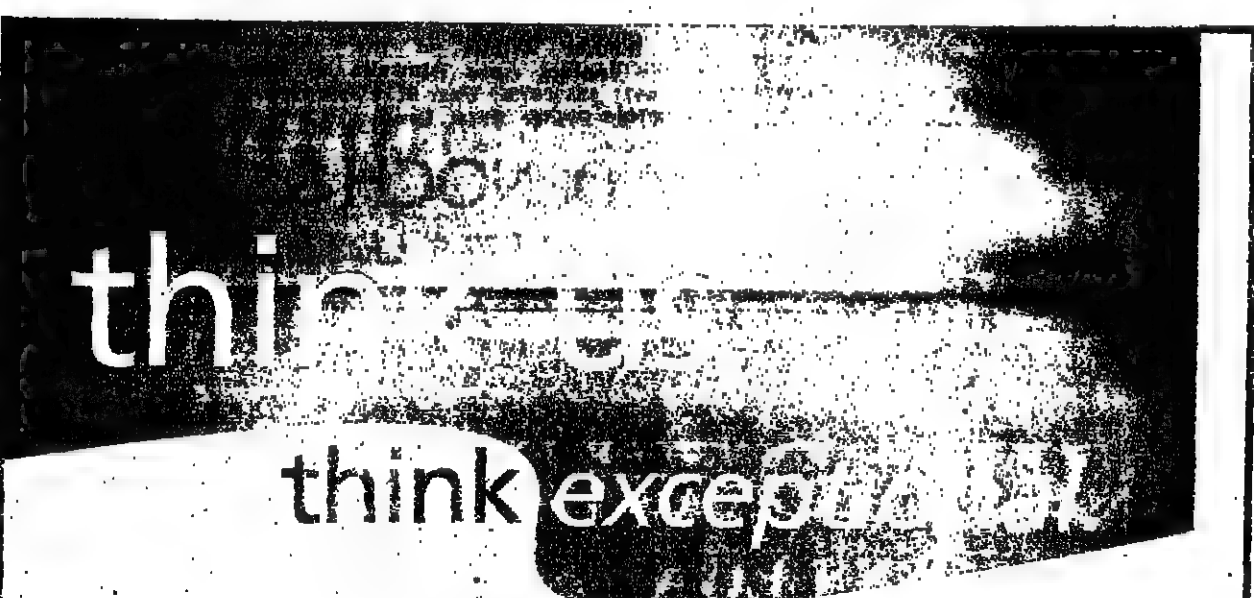


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Edge & Ellison
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Corporate and Commercial Lawyers

Throughout the 1990's we have focused particularly on developing our international business. New offices were opened in Singapore and Piraeus last year and we have recently established associations with law firms in Athens and in Croatia. We are now seeking to recruit young, able and enthusiastic solicitors to join our thriving Corporate Department in London, specifically to work in the following areas:-

CORPORATE FINANCE

We advise on all aspects of corporate finance, including mergers and acquisitions, flotations and new issues and reorganisations. Our clients include an interesting and impressive array of quoted companies, both domestic and international, public authorities, partnerships and private companies.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

We advise a wide variety of leading institutions from all sectors of the global financial markets. The work embraces new products and services, pro-active practical strategic, regulatory and compliance advice, usually involving new technologies and international aspects.

INVESTMENT FUNDS

The lawyers who work within our active Investment Funds practice advise on the structuring and marketing of investment trusts, unit trusts and off-shore funds, which frequently involves us acting as project manager on product launches.

INFRASTRUCTURE & PROJECTS

We act on a range of transactions internationally and in the UK, in the ports, transport, power and telecommunications sectors. Our lawyers have strong core legal skills which cover company and commercial practice in the widest sense and which require a good understanding of international business and financial environments.

We are keen to hear from motivated lawyers who possess a commercial rather than a purely academic outlook and who have a courteous and professional manner. The working atmosphere within Stephenson Harwood is considered to be one of the most agreeable in the City and salaries and other employment benefits are competitive. If you would like to learn a little more about these opportunities, please telephone **Andrew Satch**, the Head of our Corporate Department, for an informal discussion or send your personal and career details to **Denis Reed, Stephenson Harwood, One, St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8SH. Tel: 0171-329 4422.**

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The Chambers of David Stanford are pleased to announce that **Edward Bannister QC** and **Fenner Moeran** joined chambers on 29th September 1997

Edward Bannister QC	David Stanford	Geoffrey Topham
Andrew Cosedge	Geoffrey Vos QC	David da Silva
Robert Hannusch	Alan Tunkel	Sarah Girling
David Lord	Sarah Asplin	Asaf Kayani
Sarah Lacey	Carlos Pimentel	Andrew Twigger
	Andrew Twigger	Fenner Moeran

Senior Clerk: A.K. Palmer

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Telephone: 0171 242 4937 DX 317 London Fax: 0171 405 3896

2 HARCOURT BUILDINGS

Temple, London, EC4Y 5DE

Peter Boydell QC retired on 26 September, having led these Chambers with great distinction for thirty two years. The date of his retirement was the 60th anniversary of his entry into the legal profession as an articled clerk. Peter began practice at the Bar in the Spring of 1948. Chambers have unanimously asked Gerard Ryan QC to succeed him.

The members of Chambers are:

Gerard Ryan QC	Timothy Conyns
Sheila Cameron QC	Andrew Tait
Robin Pugh QC	Graig Howell Williams
Richard Phillips QC	Suzanne Ormsby
Charles George QC	Meyric Lewis
Keith Lindblom QC	Andrew Newcombe
Christopher Beaumont	Charles Myers
Robert McCracken	Douglas Edwards
Philip Petchey	Euan Burrows
Jonathan Milner	Joanna Clayton
Andrew Kelly	

Senior Clerk: Allen Collier

Telephone: 0171 353 8415 Fax: 0171 353 7622
LDE 402 (Chancery Lane)

Andrew Arden QC
David Carter
Timothy Jones
Linda Hayton
Declan O'Mahony
Siobhan McGrath
Martin Partington
Christopher Baker
Christopher Balogh
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You will also possess excellent influencing and communication skills and your commercial awareness will be reflected in your ability to take pragmatic decisions in response to business needs. Working within a flexible management structure, you will share some responsibility for the management and technical development of a number of staff.

In return, you will be offered an excellent package, including pension, bonus, profit sharing and possibly relocation assistance.

If you have the skills and experience to make a difference in this role, then please send your CV, by 14th October 1997, to: Karen Rowlands, Personnel Officer (L&P), Norwich Union, PO Box 4, Surrey Street, Norwich NR1 3NG.

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Applications with current C.V. should be sent by telefax with original by airmail to:

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P.O. Box 265, Caledonian House, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.
Telephone: (345) 949-0100, Fax: (345) 949-7886

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The past year has seen significant growth at Davies Lavery with both the City and Maidstone offices experiencing considerable expansion. This development continued in May with the opening of their Birmingham office. As a result of this progress the following positions have arisen:-

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A Lawyer with up to 4 years experience of all areas of Insurance Litigation with a bias towards Personal Injury is required to assist a Partner and undertake own caseload.

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Lawyer with 2 to 3 years relevant PQE to work in Personal Injury Department, handling EL, PL, Product and RTA claims on behalf of a number of members. An ability to handle a large caseload and to work under pressure is essential.

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Commercial Insurance Litigator with up to 4 years PQE with experience of all areas of Insurance Litigation to assist a Partner and undertake own caseload involving contract and various disputes, construction and property litigation, predominantly of a non personal injury nature.

The successful candidates will grasp an immediate understanding of complex and varied legal problems as well as providing high quality imaginative and commercial advice to clients. An ability to respond rapidly to client's requirements and work under pressure is essential.

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Our client is a diversified group which has one of the strongest brands in the media business. Its production arm is associated with many of Britain's favourite television programmes and is at the forefront of production of commercial TV programmes in the UK. It also has an increasingly strong profile internationally. The company has an extremely broad programme base with a sophisticated business affairs function supporting the production teams.

A new vacancy has been created within the business affairs team based in the North West. They seek an experienced media lawyer or business affairs professional with up to 5 years' experience. It is essential to have extensive knowledge of the TV industry and to have dealt with negotiations associated with production. You will have the opportunity to work closely with a number of business areas including factual, entertainment, children's and drama serials. The role will include high level negotiations with UK and overseas broadcasters.

This is a unique opportunity to join a growing dynamic team in a group which can offer unprecedented career development. The quality and variety of work is outstanding. You must be able to demonstrate a tenacious negotiating style and be committed to working and living in the North West.

Our client is an Equal Opportunities Employer and positively welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

For further information in complete confidence please telephone Andrew Russell at ZMB's Manchester office on 0161-238 4908 (0161-929 0969 evenings/weekends) or Lisa Hicks in the London office on 0171-523 3838 (0171-642 3237 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to them at ZMB North, Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester, M1 3LF or fax on 0171-238 4910.

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- servicing a fast expanding portfolio of clients active in the insurance industry in the UK, USA and the rest of the world.

You will be

- a dynamic assistant with at least 4 years' post qualification experience and genuine partnership aspirations with demonstrable experience of insurance law particularly in the context of domestic mergers and acquisitions;
- with a good understanding of regulatory concepts and the workings of the DTI;
- Ideally with some knowledge of life insurance, Lloyd's, demutualisation and the regimes governing the insurance industries in Europe.

This is an exceptional opportunity to play a front line role in an expanding area of practice. This is reflected by the excellent salary and benefits package and rewarding career structure on offer.

For further information in complete confidence please contact Yvonne Smyth or Jonathan Brenner on 0171-523 3838 (01923-469564 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail yvonne@zmb.co.uk

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Start spreading the news - there are fantastic opportunities for UK lawyers from top firms at any level below partnership but ideally 2-5 years qualified who want to enjoy a superb life in New York with a US firm. There are openings for corporate finance, capital markets, finance, IT and telecoms lawyers. Ref: T43513

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There are excellent opportunities either to specialise or stay general in the highly-regarded property department of this leading City firm. You will have 3-10 years' exp and the drive to want to make it all the way to the top. If you do, there is every chance, the rewards are simply outstanding. Ref: T15493

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To £50 Salary

This is very much the big time for project finance lawyers. The London office of this leading New York firm, even by the standards of its rivals, pays out of this world for the right people, as it has a workload to finance it. This could be you if a partner or associate with 0-4 years' exp at a top practice. Ref: T43654

COMMERCIAL/IT

To £50,000

Are you a young lawyer who knows it is already time to move on? If so, this equally young top 10 City firm could be the perfect answer. It has fast-track openings for an IT/ITP lawyer with 1-3 years' exp, a solicitor 0-2 years qualified and a commercial generalist with 0-3 years' exp. Ref: T34652

CON/ENERGY/PROJECTS

To £60,000

Quite simply, this top 10 firm boasts one of the best projects practice in the City. Excellent career move for a contentious or non-contentious construction lawyer with 0-1 years' exp, a projects lawyer with 1-4 years' exp, perhaps in corporate or energy work, and a 4 year qualified project finance specialist. Ref: T16950

IN-HOUSE MARKETS

To £50,000 + significant bonus

There are real opportunities to move into a non-legal role at this well-known international bank if you are a debt capital markets specialist with 1-4 years' exp. As if that was not enough, you can also expect at least to double your salary with bonuses at this south London-based operation. Ref: T43629

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Michelle McGregor, Greg Abrahams or Kate Sutcliffe (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6662 (0171-792 0475 or 0171-359 6660 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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Great opportunity for a corporate/banking lawyer with 1-4 years' exp from a top firm to join this leading US firm. There is an abundance of work in this rapidly emerging market and a spell in eastern Europe gaining this broad experience will enhance your career prospects. Ref: T16385

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To £65,000

This is something very different and very exciting for an insurance lawyer with 0-6 years' exp. This leading insurance practice has a team dedicated to sorting out problems arising from the cancellation of all sorts of media events - concerts, film etc. Lots of travel and client contact guaranteed. Ref: T23128

CORPORATE FINANCE

To £55,000

This is a very rare opening for a young corporate or banking lawyer with 0-2 years' exp to move into a non-legal corporate finance role at this leading international investment bank. You need to show real interest in all things financial to work on IPOs, takeovers, M&A etc. Ref: T43242

TELECOMS

To £65,000

There are great opportunities to advance your career if you can show this leading international firm that you are serious about telecoms. It has a booming domestic and international practice, and would make a superb move all round if you have 1-3 years' exp and ideally experience in regulation and transactions. Ref: T38222

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Simon Barker
Mark Cunningham
Gregory Banner
(formerly of 3 New Square)

Jonathan Russen
James Aldridge
(formerly of 1 New Square)

have accepted invitations to join Chambers with immediate effect and that
Andrew Ayres and Robert Swerling have also accepted invitations to
join Chambers as from 1 October 1997 following completion of their pupillage.

As at 1 October 1997 the members of Chambers will be:

Michael Lyndon-Stanford Q.C.
Terence Cullen Q.C.
Christopher McCall Q.C.
William Charles (Treasury Counsel)
David Oliver Q.C.
Hazel Williamson Q.C.
Richard McCombe Q.C.
Nigel Thomas
Christopher Pymont Q.C.
Catherine Newman Q.C.

Timothy Evans
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It therefore has the capacity to offer in-depth training to candidates with only a small exposure to derivatives or a new challenge to the more experienced. A bright and enquiring attitude will, however, be essential. Both career development and remuneration, including bonus, will be outstanding.

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Our client is a pre-eminent force in global debt and equity issuance and derivative products. Providing technical legal support to the equity derivatives desks, the successful candidate will join an experienced team on the trading floor. Whilst a demonstrable product and documentation knowledge is pre-requisite, negotiation of ISDA is handled separately.

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You will become part of the 40+ world-wide communications team of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP - which is at the cutting-edge of communications work, acting for leading communications companies and financial institutions sponsoring the deals.

You will be a partner or a senior assistant in a leading City or US practice. Technical skills are, of course, important, but of great significance is a determination to meet a challenge and drive our telecoms practice forward in London.

You will become part of a very profitable, global firm which values an individual's contribution. Remuneration will be structured accordingly.

We have retained Quarry Douglall as our recruitment consultants who have had the benefit of seeing our firm at first hand. For more information and/or an introductory meeting, without commitment, contact Seamus Hoar or Sarah David on 0171 405 6862 (0181-789 7704 evenings/weekends). Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.



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- Employee Benefits
- Banking/Structured Finance
- Stamp Duty
- Financial Sector
- VAT

"Tax is at the leading edge of the services which our firm provides. This offers unparalleled opportunities for tax professionals from all backgrounds to excel. Already 10% of our tax partners in London are lawyers. We would like to speak to tax lawyers who would like to increase this number! We have real opportunities in all areas but particularly in M&A and employee benefits."

David Cruickshank, Head of London Tax, Deloitte & Touche.

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Gary Richards, Tax Partner M&A Team, Price Waterhouse.

"KPMG's tax practice offers the opportunity to join a fast growing, dynamic team where individuals help to shape transactions and enjoy considerable client contact. The firm's strong international network, excellent training and challenging tax consultancy workload create superb career development opportunities."

Alison Christian, Partner, Corporate Issues Tax Group, KPMG.

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This is a demanding commercial role suitable for a qualified solicitor with three to four years' experience, at least some of which should have been in the intellectual property field. Previous in-house experience is essential, as are strong negotiating skills.

Please send your full CV to: Sushma Hayes, Personnel Department, Ericsson OMC Limited, The Keytech Centre, Ashwood Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 8BG. Telephone: 01256 864391.

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- ⇒ Preparation of financial forecasts and budgets
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This is a newly created post and it will be, at least initially, part-time. The person appointed will have experience of the workings of the Bar.

Please address applications with CV to Jonathan Cohen QC, 4 Paper Buildings, Temple, London EC4Y 7EX marked "Chambers Manager" no later than 10th October 1997



ATKIN CHAMBERS Barristers

Atkin Chambers are pleased to announce that John Blackburn QC has accepted the appointment as head of Chambers with effect from 1 October 1997. He will succeed Anthony Butcher QC, who is retiring from practice at the Bar but will continue to accept, through Chambers, appointments to act as arbitrator.

HEDGES SOLICITORS South Oxfordshire PRIVATE CLIENT

We require a Solicitor with at least two years P.Q.E. to assist over-worked Partner with development of Tax Planning, Probate and Trust department with substantial Private Client following. In long established but forward-looking firm. Apply with CV, to Adrian Hall, Hedges Solicitors, 16 Market Place, Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 0AE.

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So if you think you have what it takes to make your mark in a

culture that rewards the individual you should talk to us.

In the first instance call our advising consultant Alan A. Wright on 0171 454 4544 or 0171 454 4545.

Alternatively write to: Hedges Solicitors, 16 Market Place, Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 0AE. E-mail: hedges@ukwired.co.uk

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HEAD OF LEGAL

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6-9 years PQE From £75,000 + Bens

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Reporting into the General Manager of the London branch, the successful candidate will be responsible for all legal matters and will oversee compliance issues.

The role will therefore include the following:

- The management of all general legal matters
- The provision of legal support in connection with a variety of banking products
- Analysing legal risk and researching new products
- Advising its Head Office and other international offices on UK law
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- The management and training of a team

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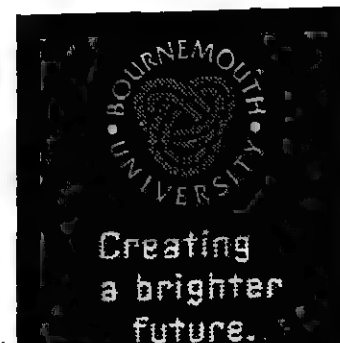
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RACING: CAPE VERDI AMONG QUARTET TO RACE UNDER GODOLPHIN'S BANNER NEXT SEASON

Maktoums buy Sangster juveniles

By RICHARD EVANS AND CHRIS McGRATH

THE Tattersalls Houghton Sales, Europe's principal yearling auction, gets underway after racing at Newmarket today — but the week's most important bloodstock transaction has already been concluded. Robert Sangster, whose racing empire has long been sustained by unsentimental business acumen, has sold four of the best two-year-olds to the Maktoum brothers.

One of them, Cape Verdi, could well produce an instant return when carrying the col-



Cape Verdi, recently purchased by the Maktoums, is favourite for today's Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket



ours of Maktoum al-Maktoum in today's Shadwell Stud Cheveley Park Stakes. Sangster has also sold two other fillies, Woodland Melody and Dance Trick, and an authentic Derby prospect in City Honours. All four will join the Godolphin team in Dubai this winter and be trained by Saeed bin Suroor on their return next spring.

It would once have appeared remarkable that Sangster should sell his most exciting young horses to the Maktoums, who usurped his dominion of the bloodstock market during the early Eight-

ies. But they have done mutually rewarding business before, as when Sangster sold Balanchine at a similar stage of her career. She went on to become a first champion for Godolphin, when Sheikh Mohammed's Dubai experiment was in its pioneering stages.

The value of this deal is undisclosed, but Sangster's readiness to sell if the price is right was also evinced when he sold Dr Devous, who went on to win the 1992 Derby. At least that colt remained with Peter Chapple-Hyam, Sangster's trainer at Manton.

His impending loss is rotten luck for Chapple-Hyam, who must sometimes fear that he used up too much luck too quickly. His first visit to the roulette table of training saw his number come up successively in Rodrigo De Triano and Dr Devous — but he has

since been repeatedly forced back to the counter for more chips. It will be with mixed emotions, no doubt, that he greets the success expected of Cape Verdi today.

Her narrow defeat of Embassy in the Lowther Stakes left her superiority

somewhat disguised. On paper, Embassy should reverse form on 3lb better terms. On grass, however, Cape Verdi is expected to increase her advantage.

At York, Embassy, better suited by the easier going, was allowed first run up the centre, but drifted under pressure and was caught on the line. Cape Verdi (2.00) looked comfortable returning to today's trip — having encountered the leading colt, Central Park, over seven furlongs at Royal Ascot — and appeals as the likeliest to progress.

The dark horse is Shmoose, already trained by bin Suroor. But she hung markedly left at the end of her Newbury debut — and this could prove a decisive weakness in today's much stronger company.

It was at the Houghton Sales last year that the field for today's special bonus race changed hands — and the big dividend looks destined for a 78,000-quid son of Green Desert, Tamarisk (1.30). After a striking debut success at Goodwood, he romped home by six lengths at Kempton, clocking a fast time.

The opening race screened by Channel 4 is the EBF Jersey Lily Fillies Nursery, in which the most intriguing runner is Tudlic Refrain (2.50). Badly drawn twice since a promising Windsor debut, she has been kept to five furlongs while qualifying for handicaps. With stamina in her pedigree, she can find major improvement over today's seven furlongs.

But Bold Face is not certain to run in Thursday's Middle Park Stakes on Thursday after pulling a stomach muscle.

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

TOTE CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Newmarket, October 4

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

Label	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1st	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20
2nd	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30
3rd	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40
4th	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50
5th	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60
6th	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70
7th	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80
8th	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90
9th	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00
10th	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDER

2.15 Brambles Way, 2.50 Name Of Our Father, 3.20 Hacktack, 3.55 Lochmagrah, 4.30 Monaco Gold, 5.00 Superpride.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

2.15 SATLEY PUNCH BOWL CLAIMING HURDLE

Label	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1st	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20
2nd	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30
3rd	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40
4th	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50
5th	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60
6th	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70
7th	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80
8th	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90
9th	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00
10th	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10

2.50 KIER NORTH EAST HANDICAP HURDLE

(22.25; 2m 5f 110y) (5)

Label	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1st	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20
2nd	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30
3rd	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40
4th	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50
5th	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60
6th	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70
7th	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80
8th	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90
9th	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00
10th	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10

3.20 SPITFIRE NOVICES CHASE

(23.10; 2m 5f) (7)

Label	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1st	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20
2nd	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30
3rd	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40
4th	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50
5th	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60
6th	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70
7th	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80
8th	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90
9th	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00
10th	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10

3.55 LAZBY AND WILSON HANDICAP CHASE

(23.30; 2m 5f) (5)

Label	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1st	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20
2nd	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30
3rd	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40
4th	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50
5th	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60
6th	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70
7th	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80
8th	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90
9th	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00
10th	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10

4.30 STANLEY RACING NOVICES HURDLE

(22.50; 2m 5f 110y) (6)

Label	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1st	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20
2nd	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30
3rd	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40
4th	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50
5th	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60
6th	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70
7th	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80
8th	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90
9th	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00
10th	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10

5.00 HURRICANE NOVICES HURDLE

(22.25; 2m 5f) (10)

Label	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1st	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20
2nd	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30
3rd	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40
4th	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50
5th	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60
6th	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70
7th	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80
8th	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90
9th	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00
10th	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10

5.45 GORDON CROWE CLASSIC HANDICAP

(23.37; 3m) (13)

Label	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th
1st	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50
2nd	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60
3rd	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70
4th	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80
5th	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90
6th	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00
7th	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10
8th	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.20
9th	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.30
10th	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.30	3.40
11th	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.30	3.40	3.50
12th	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.30	3.40	3.50	3.60
13th	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.30	3.40	3.50	3.60	3.70

FOOTBALL: RASH OF INJURIES TO KEY PLAYERS THREATENS TO UNDERMINE GLASGOW CLUBS' HOPES OF MAKING PROGRESS IN UEFA CUP

Celtic seeking to capitalise on Liverpool's frailty

By Kevin McCarron

LIVERPOOL, with their stock of exquisitely skilled footballers, resemble a jeweller's shop, and, like all such establishments, live in fear of the ram-raiders. For too many years now, trophies have eluded them as assaults by coarser teams of lesser abilities have proved effective. So it is that the return leg of their Uefa Cup first-round tie with Celtic tonight has the potential to prove disquieting.

Liverpool have the comfort of their 2-2 draw in Glasgow and, in essence, need only to be competent at Anfield. Complacency is impossible, though, for a club that has frequently been ambushed by adversity. Two years ago, for instance, Liverpool were beaten 1-0 at home by Brondby in the Uefa Cup after having seemingly made the tie safe with a goalless draw in Denmark.

On their own ground, they cannot afford to let the match with Celtic drift towards the hazardous. "Our approach will not change," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "It would be a ridiculous tactic to play for a draw." His team, in any case, is hardly built for caution and the 2-1 defeat at West Ham United on Saturday demonstrated its peculiar fallibility.

What does it profit a club to score a magnificent goal, such as that delivered by Robbie Fowler, if its defence is discom-

certed by the most rudimentary cross? Evans's arrangements at centre back will continue to provoke doubt since Mark Wright is still injured and unavailable. The manager must find it more soothing to let his mind rest on the attack.

Fowler has scored in his past two matches after his return from injury. "It's great to get back our top scorer for the past three seasons," Evans said. Stimulating, too, to watch him work in tandem with another prodigy, Michael Owen. The two forwards, who both call for the ball to be played to their feet, embody the close-passing traditions of the club.

Karlheinz Riedle allows a change of style should Liverpool's pattern of play decline into a mere stereotype. Celtic, however, have not been brooding over their adversaries. Instead, they look with anxiety upon themselves. With Marc Rieper ineligible and Tommy Boyd suspended, they were always bound to field a makeshift defence at Anfield.

The air of improvisation now threatens to spread. Yesterday, training was restricted to an evening session at Anfield as Wim Jansen, the head coach, trusted that rest might restore Stephane Mahe, Phil O'Donnell, Andreas Thom, Craig Burley, Morten Wieghorst and Henrik Larsson.

If the construction of the side is drastically altered, then the significance of Celtic's recent form must be questioned. For the first time since January, they have won four league matches in succession, but, in any case, a harsh exchange rate usually applies when domestic form is converted into the hard currency of European competition.

Jansen has made remarkable progress in three months with Celtic, but his side may lack the means to survive a night at Anfield, particularly if some of their most important players are missing. Although Celtic are convinced that they can exploit Liverpool's weaknesses, it is hard to see how they can conceal failings of their own.

"If we can keep it tight for 20 minutes and then have a go at them there's no reason why we can't get the result we need," Jackie McNamara, the Celtic midfielder, said jauntily.

The plan is easier to describe than it is to execute. Owen confesses to having a Scottish grandmother who lives near Celtic Park, but sentimentality is unlikely to afflict the teenager or his team-mates this evening.

LIVERPOOL (probable): 4-5-1-3: G. Jones — R. Jones, S. T. Morris, P. Babb, S. Harrison — M. Thomas, P. Ince, S. Gerrard — S. McKennan — M. Owen, R. Fowler. CELTIC (probable): 4-4-2: J. Gould — D. Hughton, A. Shillie, M. Mackay, T. McInnes — J. McNamee, G. Burley, M. Wieghorst, P. O'Donnell — H. Larsson, S. Donnelly.



Gascoigne, training in Glasgow yesterday, has yet to make his mark this season

Francis in fear of history lesson

By Our Sports Staff

IT IS three years since Ossie Ardiles suffered a Coca-Cola Cup debacle. Gerry Francis takes his Tottenham Hotspur side to Carlisle United, of the Nationwide League second division, tonight praying that he does not suffer the same fate.

Ardiles lost his job as manager when Tottenham were eliminated from the competition after losing 3-0 at Notts County, with the likes of Jürgen Klinsmann, Teddy Sheringham, Nick Barmby, Ilie Dumitrescu and Darren Anderton unable to cope with a team that was then anchored at the bottom of the first division.

Tottenham hold a 3-2 first-leg lead. Francis said: "There is so much flare in our side. The supporters are frustrated when we don't get a result, but they've got to realise that we are just as frustrated as they are. In fact, this is the most attacking line-up I have fielded but we have drawn our last three games when we have needed to win them."

Francis was on a scouting mission in Portugal when Carlisle came close to embarrassing Tottenham in the first leg. Les Ferdinand and Chris Armstrong were also missing, although they played together for the first time in the draw

with Wimbledon on Saturday and are set to continue. Francis has John Scales and David Howells back after injury. Carlisle's goalkeeper, Tony Craig, said: "We are only a goal behind and I don't think Spurs will relish the prospect of coming here. We were disappointed about being beaten in the first leg, and that shows how confident we are."

Crystal Palace have the home advantage when they try to overturn a 1-0 first-leg lead for Hull City, of the third division. Duane Darby's goal gave Hull victory at Bootham Crescent and Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, admitted: "Hull were very unlucky because these matches should be one-offs and they deserved to go through."

Artilio Lombardo missed the first game through injury and is doubtful again.

Elsewhere, Premiership teams hold all the aces, especially Blackburn Rovers, who travel to Preston North End 6-0 up from the first leg. Barnsley entertain Chesterfield 2-1 ahead. Bolton Wanderers welcome Leyton Orient with a 3-1 lead. Leeds United go to Bristol City 3-1 up and Southampton travel to Brentford, also with a 3-1 advantage.

Little plots to avoid repeat performance

By Russell Kempson

ASTON VILLA's recent record in the Uefa Cup is blighted by a recurring theme: defeat on away goals. It happened against Trabzonspor, of Turkey, in the 1994-95 season, and against Helsingborgs IF, of Sweden, last season. It could happen again against Bordeaux at Villa Park tonight.

The thought of history repeating itself preys on the mind of Brian Little, the Villa manager, whose overcautious approach was partly responsible for Villa's downfall in Sweden last year. They drew 0-0, after a 1-1 draw at home, and thus departed the competition at the first hurdle.

"It's not that easy to forget," Little said. "We had 60 to 70 per cent of the play in their half of the field in the second leg and to go out after statistics like that was a bit crazy."

"I think we're better equipped this time. The players are older and wiser; they've experienced success and disappointment and I'm sure they'll be better for it. This tie is more difficult than last year but we feel we're capable of going through."

Villa secured a spirited 0-0 draw in the first round, first leg in the Stade Lescure a fortnight ago, perhaps using up their quota of good fortune

for the tie when Bordeaux twice struck a post. Yet even with goals of paramount importance, Villa cannot afford any reckless, gung-ho tactics. "It's up to us to give nothing away; we have to be patient," Gareth Southgate, the Villa captain, said.

"We can't really go for all-out attack because if we concede one goal, then we'll have to score two in the 90 minutes. We've just got to be careful and sensible."

Jean-Pierre Papin, the former France forward, is likely to play for Bordeaux. There had been some doubt because his young daughter, Emily, was due to travel to the United States for treatment for a rare brain disorder. However, her trip has been delayed until her father returns.

Villa have injury doubts about Dwight Yorke. Southgate and Mark Draper. "Basically, they're just a bit tired and jaded after all the games we've had," Little said. "They'd feel a lot better if they could have a week off. I'm not sure, though, that I will risk all three."

If he were to rest Yorke, it would leave him with the unpredictable partnership of Savo Milosevic and Stan Collymore up front. Anything could happen, and probably will, at Villa Park this evening — as long as it is not defeat on away goals.

ASTON VILLA (probable): 3-5-3: M. Bensch — U. Ebor, S. Shearer, G. Southgate — F. Nelson, S. Curran, T. Taylor, M. Draper, A. Wright — D. Yorke, S. Collymore.

Leicester looking to gain respect

By Rob Hughes

HOW far must the pendulum swing before people stop underestimating Leicester City? They go into the Uefa Cup first round, second-leg tie against Atlético Madrid at Filbert Street tonight with impressive league form, after surprising the Spanish club with their indefatigable running before succumbing 2-1 in the first leg.

Raddy Antic, the Atlético coach and once a player with Luton Town, has problems. His team was held to a 3-3 draw by the surprise team of the Spanish season, Celtic, at home on Saturday. Indeed, Atlético needed a late three-goal burst in five minutes, two of them from Christian Vieri, the Italian centre forward.

Celtic had caught the Madrid pretenders cold at the start by taking a 2-0 lead and at the very end of the match to take a point, suggesting — as the first game against Leicester had done — that the team so expensively built by Antic and his paymaster, Jesús Gil y Gil, are individuals searching for unity and struggling to keep their minds on the job.

Atlético are eighth in the Spanish League; Leicester are third in the FA Carling Premiership. Atlético have won only once in the league; Leicester have lost only once.

Of course, as the first leg showed, if Kaamark, the Leicester defender, loses Juninho, the little Brazilian can create and devastate in the

blink of an eye and Vieri has at last begun to justify his £12 million fee. One of his goals on Saturday was a penalty, but the other, when he arrived late into the area, was honed on the training field. Juninho, almost inevitably, had moved wide to the right to create the space and had then delivered the ball sweetly for Vieri.

Additionally, though the weekend seemed a poor guide, Atlético should be strengthened in defence. In their home leg, Aguilera and Santi were suspended and a deputy, Daniel Proban, the Romanian, was both violent and inept.

Proban should not see the lights of Filbert Street tonight and Caminero, the purposeful winger, may also be absent, the victim of deliberate foul play on Saturday, according to the club's always fair-minded president, Gil.

Atlético, strangely attired with the name Marbella, the resort where Gil is mayor, across their red and white stripes, seem almost like strangers at times. Leicester, seeking to go places in the City and in the cups, are about as bonded as a team can be. They respond to Martin O'Neill, their manager, as he once did to Brian Clough — never daring to stint on effort. Will it be enough? Ninety minutes should tell.

LEICESTER CITY (probable): 3-1-4-2: K. Vieri — S. Peto, M. Ebor, S. Walsh — P. Kaamark — M. Izet, L. Lorrain, G. Parker, S. Guppy — I. Marshall, E. Heskey.

Rangers search for gremlin in the defence

By Kevin McCarron

PERPLEXITY has wounded Rangers more than disappointment. Their season has already contained too many shabby results and, having already been removed from the European Cup by IFK Gothenburg, they are now nervously considering the 2-1 deficit that must be overcome against Strasbourg this evening in the Uefa Cup. The club still seems dazed by the difficulties.

Pounded by injury problems, it is understandable that Rangers should be a little woolly and, in addition, Brian Laudrup, who suffered internal bleeding in his thigh after a crude challenge at the weekend, may not be available tonight. The problems of Walter Smith, the manager, range far beyond such humdrum matters. With the personnel available, Rangers should be reaching higher standards.

Smith said yesterday: "Brian is showing signs of improvement. I will leave the decision [whether to play] up to him."

Paul Gascoigne has yet to leave his imprint on any of their games this season and the defence, by contrast, has been all too noteworthy. The errors that allowed Motherwell their 2-2 draw at Ibrox at the weekend no longer seemed surprising. "We are giving goals away too easily," Smith said once again. "It is inconsistent defending, because at times we have been all right."

An intermittent fault is always the hardest to repair and

the manager, in any case, has few replacement parts available. Of the 25 senior players registered with Uefa, the governing body, as many as 11 may be unavailable this evening. In all likelihood, Rangers will have to make up the numbers on the substitutes' bench with youngsters.

The defence is particularly threadbare, since Terry Venables has insisted on Tony Vidmar's attendance at Australia's friendly in Tunisia this week. Joachim Björklund is, like Laudrup, attempting to shake off injury. In such circumstances, homilies are always liable to be delivered and the men who remain fit will be reminded of the need to assume responsibility.

In truth, Strasbourg are not the most intimidating opponents, even if their best forward, David Zitelli, is now free of suspension. Rangers ought to be capable of reaching a pace and intensity that will ensure a tormenting night for the visitors and, with Stuart McCall fit, Smith's team will surely not suffer from lethargy.

The greatest worry lies in the syndrome that has developed at Ibrox on European occasions that sees the crowd fearful and the players tentative. On the occasions that should be the most significant of all, the side has been in the habit of lapsing into vapid form. As much as the composition of the side, Smith will fret over the outlook of the men who take the field.

Scowcroft named in England squad

PETER TAYLOR, the England Under-21 coach, yesterday gave James Scowcroft the perfect aid to recovery by naming the Ipswich Town striker in his squad for the final European championship qualifying match away to Italy next month.

Scowcroft, 21, was carried off during the Nationwide League first division match against Norwich City last Friday after an accidental clash with his team-mate, Matt Holland. Scowcroft lost all feeling in his limbs, although that gradually began to return. Taylor said yesterday: "Ipswich tell me James has got all the feeling back and he should be able to play for them on Saturday."

England are already assured of finishing top of group two, but they need a victory in Italy to have any chance of qualifying automatically.

ically for the last eight as only the seven group winners with the best qualifying record go through by right. At present, England are heading for a play-off against Israel.

"It's frustrating to beat Italy and Poland and still not get through for certain, but we know that we haven't scored enough goals," Taylor said. Six in seven matches to be precise, but the return of Darren Eadie and Emile Heskey, after his call-up to the senior ranks last month, is a boost.

ENGLAND UNDER-21 PARTY (v Italy, in Bari, October 10): R. Wright (Ipswich), C. Day (Watford), A. Marshall (Norwich), K. Oyer (Ipswich), D. Gerrard (Chelsea), W. Quinn (Sheffield Utd), J. Curtis (Manchester Utd), R. Scowcroft (Ipswich), M. Hall (Coventry), R. Ferdinand (West Ham), A. Moore (Barnsley), B. Threlkeld (Wimbledon), M. Duberry (Chelsea), J. Cammilleri (Liverpool), N. Quashie (Barnsley), P. Rangers, P. Murray (Queens Park Rangers), D. Murphy (Liverpool), S. Hughes (Aston), F. Larnard (West Ham), E. Heskey (Leicester), S. Day (Crystal Palace), J. Scowcroft (Ipswich), D. Eadie (Norwich), L. Broadbent (Manchester City).

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Market forces starting to be felt at Filbert Street

Chris Ayres sees another club take stock of progress



Leicester City yesterday attempted to translate its recent success in the Coca-Cola Cup and FA Carling Premiership into a strong stock market debut, with a flotation deal that valued the club at £24 million.

The move is expected to give Leicester a windfall of £11 million to spend on buying players, expanding the capacity of its Filbert Street home and improving its commercial operations.

Tom Smeaton, the Leicester chairman, said he was determined not to make the same mistakes as other clubs that have seen their shares fail to perform after joining the stock market.

"I think you need to value yourself at a conservative level and have a stream of profit from non-football related activities," he said. "Then you need a level of expertise on the board which will give the City confidence."

Leicester's move follows the recent flotations of Nottingham Forest, Chelsea Village and Newcastle United, with football clubs seeing stock

market success as a status symbol as well as an important method of raising cash.

Manchester United's hugely successful flotation in 1991 began the trend, although many clubs have not reaped the same financial rewards. Shares in United are worth nearly ten times their value in 1991, but an investment in Newcastle is worth significantly less than when the club floated in February.

Leicester will join the Alternative Investment Market — which is less regulated than the main stock market — through a deal with Soccer Investments, the shell company floated earlier this year with the sole intention of taking over a Premiership side.

Soccer Investments will exchange 31 of its shares for each Leicester share, valued at 110p each. Fans will be able to make a minimum investment of £440 in the club, which is offering about 900,000 shares to the general public.

Many other Premiership clubs are set to follow in Leicester's footsteps over the coming months, including West Ham United and Derby County. Some foreign clubs are also understood to be considering a flotation on the London stock market, among them Bologna and Internazionale.

The deal yesterday came as English National Investment Company, the London quoted trust, bought a stake in AEK Athens, one of the most famous clubs in Greece.

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But by failing — by the very, very wide margin — every test of modern, female television presenter they have become hugely popular. In America, where every female presenter on the screen appears to be blonde and as thin as rice paper, they are also the hit. Maybe viewers are mad as hell with television stereotypes, and are not going to take it any more.

But then some stereotypes just snap back like a new pair of braces. Picture This (BBC2) last night led us to the cliff-top of Beachy Head, a favoured suicide spot, in a rather beautiful debut film by Zuzanna Perzival. "It's very dangerous here," said a German schoolteacher to her class. "We are standing on very high cliffs. Two years ago a German student walked up to the edge to take a picture and fell to his death. Thankfully..." — take note of that thankfully — "he wasn't from our school, so you can relax a bit."

1990

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.02 MHz.

3.00am 5 News Early (7875108)
3.30 Milkshake (1048956) 7.35 USA High (7468155) 8.00 Herbie Hancock (961945)

3.30 WorldWide! The documentary series continues with a look at how Manchester prepared its bid to host the 2000 Olympics (9303672)

5.00 Espresso Consumer affairs magazine (7317563) 10.00 Exclusive (65598) 10.30 Hot Property (11) (6689178)

5.00 Lezza Chat show (703241) 11.00 Double Exposure (9325703)

5.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Viewers contorted by Connor who asks what happens when business concludes with a love affair (11) (2264548) 12.30pm Family Affairs (11) (P444108)


5.00 5 News Update (8550103) 1.05 Sun Beach. Gregory plans a trip to Spain (8110362) 2.00 5's Company (81819)

5.30 Poker Afterglow (1987) with Elizabeth Taylor and George Hamilton. A lightweight western about a New Orleans card sharp who uses his skills for charity in a Las Vegas bordello. Directed by Arthur Aronson. (8271055)

5.30 5's Company: Late Edition (1175276)

5.30 Whittle Audience participation presented by Tim Vine (11) (960555)

5.00 100 Per Cent (9687549)



Liz Crowther as Annie (5.30pm)

5.30 Family Affairs Annie (Liz Crowther) hears Mark makes a stunning confession (B641453)

6.00 5 News (T) (B623712)

6.30 Animal Cynapse The catastrophic effects of a flu that sweeps through Everglades in 1980 (T) (B381382)

7.50 UEFA Cup Football Live coverage Arsenal v PAOK Salonika and extend highlights of Aston Villa v Borussia Dortmund (B0260127)

8: In In the event of extra time and penalty subsequent programmes are subject to delay or alteration

1.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H (8192059)

zine (14741913)
45 Live and Dangerous: Futbol Americano
 Action from the Latin American leagues
 (2366062)
45 The Streets of San Francisco stars
 Karl Malden (8171468)
50 100 Per Cent (r) (5876888)

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL 42

Tampa Bay Buccaneers riding early-season crest of a wave

SPORT

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30 1997

RACING 43

Maktoums buy four classic prospects from Sangster



McManaman and Fowler restored

Hoddle spirits soaring after happy returns

BY OLIVER HOIT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GLENN HODDLE wrote the first lines of the final chapter of England's World Cup qualifying story at Lancaster Gate yesterday. He named his squad for the decisive group game against Italy in Rome a week on Saturday, welcomed a quartet of the country's finest players back into the international fold and offered up a little prayer that those he had selected might stay free of injury in the week ahead.

For once, the talk was purely of football. It was almost as though the importance of the occasion had precluded a recurrence of the distractions that habitually crowd in on these announcements. No wife-beating, no drink-driving, no referee-baiting. There was no need for any side-shows this time. Italy v England is big enough.

In other circumstances, the absence of Alan Shearer could seem like a festering sore, but the England coach was all optimism and bonhomie yesterday. He concentrated on the return of two of the other components of the spine of his team: Paul Ince, who was suspended for the last match against Moldova, and Tony Adams, who was injured.

He also included the Liverpool pair of Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler, two forwards who could turn any match, after a brief exile from the squad, some interpreted the exclusion of McManaman from the squad against Moldova as a punishment for not participating in England's summer matches in the Tournoi de France, even though he was having a knee operation at the time.

In the interim, McManaman has recovered from a slow start to the season and the damage done to his confidence by the collapse of his

SQUAD

D Seaman (Aston Villa), N Martin (Lancaster United), I Walker (Tottenham Hotspur), G Neville (Manchester United), P Neville (Aston Villa), G Le Tissier (Reading), A Adams (Aston Villa), G Southgate (Aston Villa), G Pugh (Aston Villa), S Campbell (Tottenham), P Jones (Liverpool), P Gascoigne (Rangers), A Hinchcliffe (Everton), D Blackham (Aston Villa), D Batty (Newcastle), N Batty (Aston Villa), A Lee (Newcastle), P Scholes (Manchester United), E Shearman (Manchester United), S McManaman (Liverpool), L Ferdinand (Tottenham), R Fowler (Liverpool), I Wright (Aston Villa), S Collymore (Aston Villa)

transfer to Barcelona has been repaired by scoring two goals that took the breath away, first against Celtic, then against Aston Villa. Fowler, in only his second start of the season, against West Ham United on Saturday, struck the kind of predatory volleyed goal that signalled that he will soon be back to his best, too.

The squad was the weaker for the absence of the Liverpool duo. Even though both may find it hard to break into the starting line-up for the match in the Olympic Stadium, which England only need to draw to progress to the final in France next summer, the England coach recognised during his press conference that the time for trying to teach players lessons had passed, and that this squad represented the best 24 available to him.

"It is a big, big plus to have Tony Adams and Paul Ince



Fowler: predatory

back," Hoddle said. "They are two players who feel at home in the international scene. They have got that belief in themselves because they have played at the very top and it is a tremendous boost for everyone to have them in the squad."

"With Steve and Robbie, we are also bringing back two players of great talent. Steve has done very well in that he has scored two magnificent goals. There is still some of his form to come back but leaving him out of the squad has made him reflect a little bit. An urgency has come back into his game."

"I wanted to see a positive response from Steve after he was left out of the Moldova squad and I have seen it. When he is playing at his best, he is up there amongst the very best. His break gave him a bit of time to reflect and what happened with Barcelona has probably made him stronger."

Fowler provides a an alternative to the first-choice attacking partnership of Ian Wright and Teddy Sheringham, although it is hard to see why Hoddle has once more preferred an out-of-form Stan Collymore to an in-form Chris Sutton. McManaman will put pressure on Hoddle's midfield selections, even though he is likely to stick with David Beckham and Graeme Le Saux on the flanks and two defensively minded players, like Ince and David Batty, either side of Paul Gascoigne.

Adams, of course, will be the bulwark that Hoddle relies on to anchor a defence that is likely to come under the most intense pressure as Italy strive for the victory they need to take them past England to the top of the group.

"I have almost got two heads on at the moment," Hoddle said, "because part of me is going to be worried this week about players getting injured and part of me is glad that people like Robbie and Tony and Teddy Sheringham are going to be getting more games under their belts."

"This is the first time that there has not been some other issue involved at the announcement of the squad and I hope it stays that way. If any of the run-up to the games could be plain sailing, then it would be this one."

"We are all in a positive frame of mind but we know what a hard game it is going to be. It is going to need a magnificent performance from us to get the result we need but I think we are capable of that."



Darren Clarke, left, and Lee Westwood arrive in England yesterday with the Ryder Cup after Europe's success in Spain. Photograph: David Dyson

Langer nominated as Europe captain

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
AT WALSLEY



Captain vindicated — 46

BERNHARD LANGER was identified as the man whom Severiano Ballesteros believes should succeed him as Europe's next Ryder Cup captain and take the team to Boston in two years' time, when the Europeans will be trying for an unprecedented third successive victory against the United States.

"Bernhard has been in the Ryder Cup many times," Ballesteros said yesterday, as he began to list Langer's credentials to be in charge at The Country Club, near Boston, in 1999. "He is a very special man. He has a great personality. He is never out of order. He is very experienced and very intelligent. He would do the job fantastic."

It is almost certain, however, that Langer wants to compete in Boston and, if successful, he would be making his tenth Ryder Cup appearance. He said that he would like to do the job at some time in the future — when it is held in Germany,

perhaps — but two years from now is too soon. "I want to play in the match, not captain it," Langer said yesterday. Ballesteros repeated that his decision to stand down from the captaincy is because he wants to have time to concentrate on his own golf and try to play in more Ryder Cups. "I am 100 per cent sure about giving up the captaincy," he said, "and the only reason is to concentrate on my game and regain my form."

"That is the only reason. I am playing better and I want to win a tournament before the year is over. I have been

playing well these past few weeks. At the Lancôme Trophy I played fantastic, but I did not have any luck. But I believe in leaving the door open to return as captain some time in the future."

Ballesteros described Colin Montgomerie as a man who says one thing one day and something else the next. "Today he says something is black, tomorrow he says it is white," Ballesteros said. "This week he says he might go to the United States. Next week he says he might stay here."

Talk about the pot calling the kettle black. Ballesteros has always been fickle and for all the apparent certainty of his decision to step down, there remains the possibility that the Ryder Cup Committee might persuade him to remain or that, suddenly, he might change his mind.

"We do have some success in persuading Ryder Cup captains to change their minds," Ken Schofield, executive director of the PGA European Tour and a co-opted member of the Ryder Cup Committee, said — an obvious reference to the way



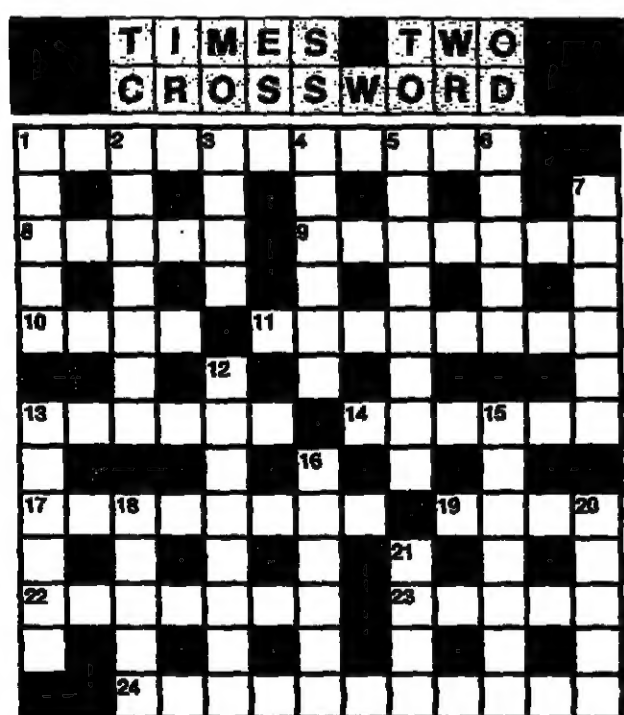
Langer: wants to play

that they persuaded Bernhard Gallacher to return as captain for the 1995 match after he had initially said that he wanted to step down after the 1989, 1991 and 1993 matches.

"But we will respect Seve's

decision," Schofield said. "There would be nothing better for Europe than he should regain his game and qualify for some future Ryder Cups. What he brought to the Ryder Cup was inspiration for the Europeans. Each player played an inch taller because of him. This week Seve was Arnold [Palmer] and Jack [Nicklaus] combined."

The next Ryder Cup Committee meeting is to be held in November and, if recent history is anything to go by, then a captain will be in place by early next year. At this meeting, the format for selection for the next match will be settled, and it is likely that the world rankings will play a more important part in team selection for 1999.



No 1212

ACROSS

- 1 (Eg party) at its height (2,4,5)
- 8 Stamp: candid (5)
- 9 To corrupt (morally) (7)
- 10 OT book: pity (arch) (4)
- 11 Fragrant; reminiscent (8)
- 13 A dupe; adhesive cup (6)
- 14 One vetting (6)
- 17 Inflexibility (8)
- 19 Feel lack of (4)
- 22 Unimaginative (7)
- 23 Plants inc. seaweed (5)
- 24 Decisive (juncture) (4-2-5)

DOWN

- 1 Deduce (5)
- 2 Desperate, frenzied (7)
- 3 NW Eng district, has Poets (4)
- 4 Unexpected (6)
- 5 Mildly naughty (8)
- 6 W G — Archer, 'd.' 1955 (5)
- 7 Kitchenware alloy (6)
- 12 Information in response (8)
- 13 Writing, text (6)
- 15 Beach pebbles; roof tile (7)
- 16 Wall plaster (6)
- 18 Darkness, depression (5)
- 20 Move furtively; informer (5)
- 21 Baby animal; pub name with flag (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1211

ACROSS: 1 Dial 3 Pamphlet 9 Golly 10 Have a go 11 Bugbear 12 Trim 14 Dredge 16 Blithe 18 Whit 19 Pigment 22 Amateur 23 Stave 24 Disaster 25 Skit
DOWN: 1 Dogsboddy 2 At loggerheads 4 Ashore 5 Pivotal 6 Leap in the dark 7 Thor 8 Tyre 13 Vestment 15 Gutter 17 Sparse 20 Gust 21 Band

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TIMES CROSSWORDS: Books 1211, 1212, 1213 (A50 each). Sunday Times Crosswords: Book 2 (A50). Crossword 1 (100 puzzles). Crossword 2 (100 puzzles). Crossword 3 (100 puzzles). Crossword 4 (100 puzzles). Crossword 5 (100 puzzles). Crossword 6 (100 puzzles). Crossword 7 (100 puzzles). Crossword 8 (100 puzzles). Crossword 9 (100 puzzles). Crossword 10 (100 puzzles). Crossword 11 (100 puzzles). Crossword 12 (100 puzzles). Crossword 13 (100 puzzles). Crossword 14 (100 puzzles). Crossword 15 (100 puzzles). Crossword 16 (100 puzzles). Crossword 17 (100 puzzles). Crossword 18 (100 puzzles). Crossword 19 (100 puzzles). Crossword 20 (100 puzzles). Crossword 21 (100 puzzles). Crossword 22 (100 puzzles). Crossword 23 (100 puzzles). Crossword 24 (100 puzzles). Crossword 25 (100 puzzles). Crossword 26 (100 puzzles). Crossword 27 (100 puzzles). Crossword 28 (100 puzzles). Crossword 29 (100 puzzles). Crossword 30 (100 puzzles). Crossword 31 (100 puzzles). Crossword 32 (100 puzzles). 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